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YEARBOOK

& FANTASY GUIDE

2026-27

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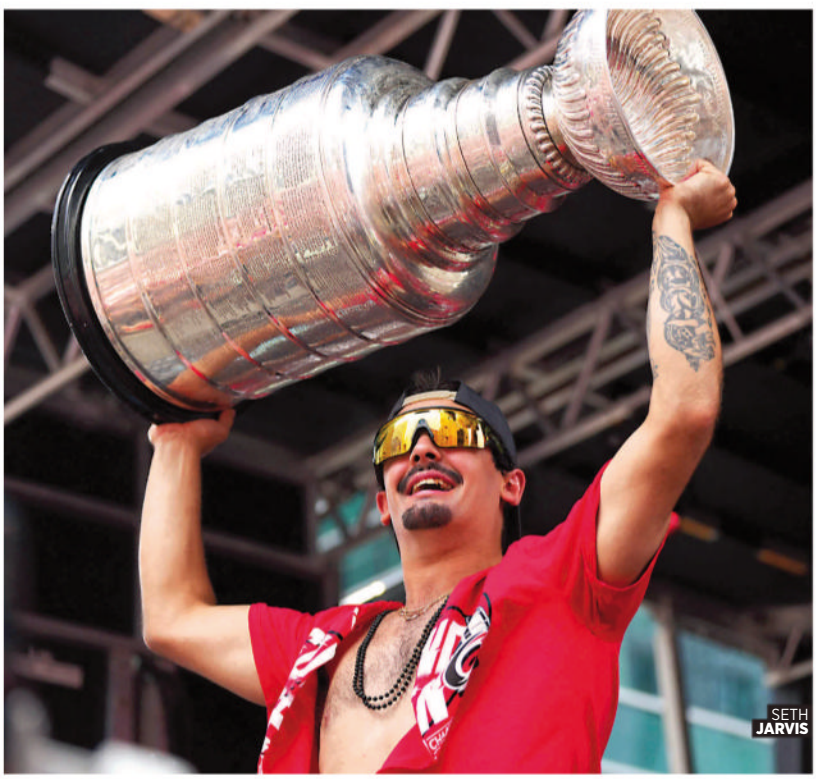

SETH **JARVIS**

SEBASTIAN **AHO**

It was all smiles in Carolina as the Canes and their fans celebrated the team's first title in 20 years.

PHOTOS BY JAMES GUILLORY-IMAGN IMAGES

The Hockey News
CELEBRATING 80H ANNIVERSARY EST. 1947

CONTENTS

YEARBOOK 2026-27 | VOL. 80 NO. 01

SEASON PRIMER

NHL TEAM PREVIEWS | 46

Which clubs will flourish and which will falter as the NHL enters a new era of increased cap space? Can the Carolina Hurricanes win back-to-back Stanley Cups, or will a new champion be crowned for 2026-27? We break down who will push for a deep playoff run and who hopes the lottery gods will be on their side.

FEATURES

10
10 THINGS TO WATCH
From a potential duel in the Atlantic to Mike Babcock's return, there will be plenty of intrigue when the puck drops.

14
ROOKIE REPORT
While Gavin McKenna may be the main draw, there is no shortage of talented youngsters reporting for duty this year.

16
CUTTER GAUTHIER
He emerged as one of the best goal-scorers in the league last season. As he rises, so will the Ducks.

20
NIKITA KUCHEROV
Already in the elite echelon, he's always looking to sharpen his skills, which is nightmare fuel for his opponents.

24
MITCH MARNER
After years of scrutiny in Toronto, he's thriving in Vegas with less pressure on him to be a go-to player.

28
DYLAN GUENTHER
Pair his deadly shot with an evolving two-way game, and it won't be long before he's an all-situations beast.

32
RYAN O'REILLY
Channelling a youthful demeanor on and off the ice has allowed him to reach a level he hasn't seen in years.

34
MARTIN ST-LOUIS
By taking a page from his favorite show, *Seinfeld*, Montreal's coach has elevated his team into being a serious threat.

36
MORGAN GEEKIE
Overlooked at every level, he's found a home in Boston – all the while developing into a lethal marksman.

FANTASY

176
NOTEWORTHY TRENDS
We understand it can be difficult to stay in the know, so take a peek at some crucial currents to monitor this season.

180
ASK THE EXPERTS
Sleeper pick? Vezina winner? Top three teams? THN staff members give their answers to those questions and more.

182
SKATER BIOS
Get the edge in your fantasy league with the inside scoop on 300 key forwards and defenseman.

204
GOALIE BIOS
Goaltending can be voodoo. But we're here to help guide you to fantasy glory with critical info on the top 60 keepers.

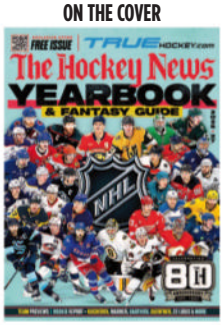
COLUMNS

7
THE FIRST WORD
Which NHL team will be the next to break through and win the Cup? There's no shortage of options to choose from.

8
PUBLISHER'S NOTE
Hockey Canada needs new members on its board of directors who will help serve all players, fans and taxpayers.

226
THE LAST WORD
The Leo Carlsson offer-sheet spectacle ushered in a new era that makes locking up young talent all the more critical.

ON THE COVER



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The Hockey News was co-founded by Ken McKenzie and W.V. Cote in 1947.

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Through Thick And Thin

CAPTAIN JORDAN STAAL MADE a great point in the wake of the Carolina Hurricanes' Stanley Cup victory over the Vegas Golden Knights that deserves further examination: sometimes even great teams need years to finally push through to a title. "I've been grinding with these guys for so long, just trying to break through," Staal said to Sportsnet's Kyle Bukauskas on the ice after Game 6. "Some guys just jump ship. I believed in this organization. I believed in everyone in it."

My THN colleague Michael Traikos heard this and raised a great question: who's next?

For years now, the Hurricanes were a preseason favorite to win the Cup. Heck, even heading into the playoffs, we often picked them to reach the final, only for something to let them down. Sometimes, it was goal-scoring. Sometimes, it was goaltending. And sometimes, it was just the Florida Panthers.

But last season, GM Eric Tulsky and coach Rod Brind'Amour kept doing what they do best, and Tulsky found the perfect lineup for his bench boss. Brind'Amour, for his part, kept pushing his players to execute a tight game plan that emphasized pressure, and the result was the organization's second championship.

So, if you're a fan of Dallas, Minnesota or Edmonton, for example, this is good news.

Like the Hurricanes, the Stars have been one of our favorites to win the Cup in the past few years (I always angled for a Carolina-Dallas final – the 'All-BBQ Stanley Cup' of pulled pork versus brisket), but they have so far fallen short of glory.

Part of that has been playing in a buzzsaw Central Division, but the Stars have been bedevilled by Pacific foes in four of the past five playoffs (Calgary and Vegas once each, and Edmonton twice), so it's not just the close enemies they've had to worry about. Injuries to the likes of Miro Heiskanen and Roope Hintz have also been ill-timed, and debating Jason Robertson's post-season play is a sport unto itself. On the other hand, if the Stars aligned – see what I did there? – would you really bet against them winning it all next season?

Minnesota will have something to say about that. GM Bill Guerin has converted the Wild from NHL afterthought to main character thanks to the blockbuster Quinn Hughes trade and Kirill Kaprizov's massive contract extension. Now, the team just needs to win.

The Wild have Dallas and Colorado to deal with in the Central, but at some point, you just have to beat everyone anyway. Taking out the Stars in the opening round last season was a good start, while getting walloped by Colorado in the second was a good lesson of where they need to take their game to get over the hump.

Minnesota has an excellent lineup for 2026-27, with Hughes and Kaprizov joined by Matt Boldy, Brock Faber and Jesper Wallstedt. What the Wild do not have is a bona fide No. 1 center – even though Joel Eriksson Ek is a fantastic two-way pivot when healthy. Swirlings about a Dylan Larkin trade had Wild fans picturing the last piece of the puzzle, but what would the return be? Undoubtedly, the Red Wings would want NHLers in return and not just picks and prospects.

Finally, we can't forget about the Edmonton Oilers. Connor McDavid and Leon Draisaitl are always the headliners, and while the Oilers stumbled in the first round against Anaheim last season, you know No. 97 has revenge on his mind. Will a revamped D-corps and a veteran goalie in Frederik Andersen help McDavid get back to the final? It will be a tall task, but ask Staal what perseverance can get you.

Ryan Kennedy
Editor in chief
@THNRyanKennedy

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

WITH W. GRAEME ROUSTAN | LINKEDIN.COM/IN/ROUSTAN

Ready To Serve All Canadians

IN THE 2026 Future Watch issue (7908), my Publisher's Note, titled Hockey Canada Needs More Financial Transparency, argued that president and CEO Katherine Henderson should have run a bid process rather than just hand Bauer a multi-million-dollar gift of an extension. I know all about the Hockey Canada/Bauer relationship because it was I, as chairman of Bauer in 2008, who launched it after carving it out of the Nike acquisition. I was and am still shocked that Henderson, as president and CEO, didn't put the equipment-and-apparel-supplier contract out to a competitive-bid process, often referred to as a "request for proposal" (RFP), to make sure that Hockey Canada received the best deal for all Canadians.

Clearly, I am biased as the owner of True Hockey, but even if Bauer had topped my bid and possible bids from CCM, Warrior and others, all Canadian hockey families would have benefitted by getting more financial support. It is my belief that Hockey Canada left millions of dollars on the table. Keep that in mind when Hockey Canada goes to the Canadian government asking for millions of taxpayers' dollars every year, which is tied to Hockey Canada's transparency. They wouldn't need as much taxpayer money if they received more funding through a competitive and fair bidding process. So, technically, all Canadians are funding Hockey Canada more than taxpayers actually need to.

My advocacy with Henderson and chairman Jonathan Goldbloom fell on deaf ears, so I am compelled to try to make things better for all Canadians by getting on the Board of Hockey Canada and fight from within to force Hockey Canada to become even more transparent to all Canadians. If selected to serve, I promise all Canadians that I will pay for all of my own travel and expenses, not accept any free trips or other gifts, and I will donate 13,000 youth-hockey sticks to Canadian girls and boys across Canada each year as my way to give back and make hockey more affordable for Canadian families.

Here is my application package, consisting of a cover letter, my resume and their form with my signature:

W. Graeme Roustan, ICD.D

Accredited Corporate Governance Professional - Seasoned International Executive

SAMPLE RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Roustan Capital - Executive Chairman & Owner
January 1991 - Present
Wholly owned, family office holding company

TRUE Sports - Executive Chairman & Owner
November 2025 - Present
TRUE Hockey is the number one brand in the NHL for goalies and number three overall, for now.

Roustan Media - Executive Chairman, Publisher & Owner
January 2018 - Present
The Hockey News, since 1947 has been the authoritative international hockey media outlet that serves millions of readers that consume more than 125 million pageviews each year of hockey content.

Roustan Sports - Executive Chairman & Owner
January 2019 - Present
Since 1847, predating Canada's independence, it is the only hockey stick factory in Canada. Owner of Christian, Northland, Torspo, McKenney and Grey Owl Paddles brands.

Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sports - Ontario Creates - "Advisor"
January 2022 - Present
Advisory Committee member of the Province of Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sports.

Canadian Olympic Committee - "Supporter"
February 2017 - 2025
Appointed by the Canadian Olympic Committee to serve on committees as needed.

National Association of Corporate Directors - Corporate Directors Institute - Director
November 2019 - 2023
Founding member of the board overseeing corporate governance certification.

Performance Sports Group - Chairman of the Board
January 2008 - October 2012
Lead acquisition of Bauer from Nike in 2008 and took the company public via an IPO in 2011.

Canadian Women's Hockey League (CWHL) - Governor
October 2008 - November 2018
Personal financial contributor, corporate sponsor, advisor, fundraiser and promoter of women's professional hockey in Canada and longest serving Member during the entity's legal existence.

EDUCATION AND ACCREDITATIONS

Institute of Corporate Directors - Canada
Directors Education Program - University of Toronto, Rotman School of Management
Class of 2014 · ICD.D · Class Valedictorian

National Association of Corporate Directors - USA
Master's Graduate
Class of 2015 - Board Leadership Fellow
Corporate Directors Institute - Founding Director

Financial Industry Regulatory Authority - USA
U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission
Class of 1989 - Series 7 License

LANGUAGES
English: Native
French: Functional

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PHILANTHROPY

HockeyEquality.org - donation of hockey sticks and goalie gear.

CWHL - financial contributor and non-profit Governor.

Montreal Canadiens - partnered to build five community outdoor multi-purpose ice rinks in Montreal.

Hockey Canada - partnered with Hockey Canada, Ottawa Senators & City of Ottawa on a multi-purpose ice rink at City Hall in Ottawa.

ProjectNorth.ca - donated hockey sticks and sourced equipment, "Investing in Northern Youth".

Roustan Sports - donation of thousands of hockey sticks.

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Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada

HOCKEY CANADA / BOARD OF DIRECTORS
APPLICATION FORM

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: AUGUST 21, 2026 AT 23:59:59 MT

CANDIDATE'S PERSONAL INFORMATION

NAME: W. Graeme Roustan
OCCUPATION: Hockey Executive
ADDRESS: 1-11 Spalding Drive
PHONE: [redacted]
CITY, PROVINCE: Brantford, Ontario
EMAIL: [redacted]
POSTAL CODE: N3T 6B7

Social media accounts (including account identities):

LinkedIn: LinkedIn.com/in/roustan **Twitter/X:** @graemeroustan

CANDIDATE'S ATTESTATION AND SIGNATURE

By signing below, I W. Graeme Roustan acknowledge and attest that:

1. I am willing to serve as a Director.
2. I am qualified to act as a Director in accordance with Hockey Canada By-Laws 26.3 and 26.4.
3. If elected, I will divest myself of any active executive position within a Member organization including, without limitation, a position on the board of directors of that Member, or any executive position within a club, league or team within thirty (30) days of being elected.
4. I have declared any perceived conflicts of interest that might be created by my election as a Director in accordance with Hockey Canada's Conflict of Interest Policy.
5. I authorize Hockey Canada to conduct a review of my social media accounts and to perform reference checks.
6. I am aware that any information provided in excess of the requested items will not be reviewed by the Nominating Committee.

Candidate Signature: W. Graeme Roustan **DATE:** August 10, 2026

HOCKEY CANADA HOCKEY CANADA

COVER LETTER
August 10, 2026

W. Graeme Roustan, ICD.D
1-11 Spalding Drive, Brantford, ON N3T 6B7

Hockey Canada Board of Directors
2026 New Director Selection Committee
201-151 Canada Olympic Road SW, Calgary, AB T3B 6B7

Sent via email to: **nominations@hockeycanada.ca**

To the Hockey Canada Board Selection Committee,

My entire life, starting with my first pair of skates and playing the game I love at the age of three in NDG Park in Montreal up until, and including, today, has prepared me to serve on the Board of Hockey Canada.

A Board's role of oversight of an organization and its management is its critical function, and when it fails, the entire enterprise itself fails all of its stakeholders, which in this case means all Canadians.

I have served as the founding Chairman of the Board of Performance Sports Group, a Canadian publicly traded company on the Toronto Stock Exchange, which then owned Bauer Hockey, Cooper Hockey, Micron Hockey, Daoust Hockey, Cascade Lacrosse and Maverik Lacrosse. I am currently the sole owner and Chairman of the Board of privately held Canadian company TRUE Sports, which owns TRUE Hockey, TRUE Lacrosse, TRUE Baseball and Roustan Sports, which owns Christian Hockey, Northland Hockey, McKenney Hockey, McKenney Lacrosse, Torspo Hockey and Grey Owl Paddles, all made in Canada and headquartered in Brantford, Ont.,

In addition, I am the sole owner, publisher and Chairman of the Board of Roustan Media, which is the owner of The Hockey News and The Curling News. I also serve on the Advisory Board of Ontario Creates, have volunteered with the Canadian Olympic Committee for an eight-year term and served as Governor and philanthropist of the Canadian Women's Hockey League for 11 years.

My corporate-governance credentials include earning my Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD.D) designation at the Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto, where I was named Class Valedictorian. In addition, I earned my Board Leadership Fellowship with the National Association of Corporate Directors, headquartered outside of Washington, D.C., where I became a founding Director of the Corporate Directors Institute.

If elected to the Board, I will push hard for Hockey Canada to become more financially transparent to all Canadian stakeholders on all of its business affairs, which would include the following:

1. Require that all contracts and renewals valued at more than $50,000 be subject to a competitive-tender process to enhance transparency, mitigate fraud risk and ensure Hockey Canada obtains the maximum available value for all its members, stakeholders and all Canadians.
2. Disclose all financial sources and uses of funds, including compensation of management and Directors
3. Prohibit all first-class and business-class travel and four-star and five-star dining for management and Board members
4. Prohibit gifts of any value to be received by management and Directors

If elected to the Board, I will commit to the following:
1. Pay for my own travel expenses
2. Never submit an expense-reimbursement request

3. Not accept any gifts
4. I will donate 13,000 youth-hockey sticks each year I serve on the Board. These sticks are manufactured in my Brantford, Ont., hockey-stick factory, and 1,000 sticks will go to each of the 13 provincial and territorial member branches of Hockey Canada.
5. Recuse myself from any discussions that might be perceived as a conflict of interest.

I believe that I have a unique set of experience and business skills that Hockey Canada and all lovers of hockey across Canada can benefit from now more than ever before. My forty years of experience in the hockey industry are well-known, much of which has been documented in the media. I am well-known by industry leaders, the International Ice Hockey Federation and its member nation associations and organizations around the world.

My understanding of what Hockey Canada represents to Canadians and the rest of the members of the International Ice Hockey Federation is crystal clear, as I have spent the better part of my life traveling the world on hockey-related business while having the pleasure of playing hockey throughout Canada, the U.S. and around the world.

Hockey brought me tremendous joy, starting as a young boy playing atom hockey in Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Que., to today, when I own the only hockey-stick factory in Canada, which started in 1847, 20 years before Canada was even an independent country. I am blessed to own The Hockey Bible, as some call it, Canada's iconic hockey magazine, which started in 1947; and four factories, one in Quebec, two in Ontario and one in Manitoba, where my 200 Canadian employees make hockey equipment for the world.

Hockey has brought me a rich life both on and off the ice, and it is because of these riches that I would love to give back to the Canadian game that has given me so much during my life. It is for this reason, and the knowledge that I have the prerequisite and necessary credentials as well as experience, that I wish to serve all of Canada's stakeholders as a Director of Hockey Canada.

Sincerely,

W. Graeme Roustan

W. Graeme Roustan

10 THINGS

TO WATCH

NHL

OLD IS NEW AGAIN

The 2026-27 NHL season has a throwback feel. The schedule is returning to 84 games. Mike Babcock is back behind a bench. And the Panthers are doing their best Broadstreet Bullies impression

BY KEN CAMPBELL

AFTER YEARS OF A salary cap that was flatter than a cross-ice saucer pass from Nikita Kucherov, NHL teams are making it rain. Apparently, there's a lot of money in this hockey thing.

In the 22 years since the NHL adopted a cap, it has risen by $65 million per team. But it has never jumped more than it did between last season and 2026-27, going from $95.5 million to $104 million. And next season, it's projected to jump even more, when, give or take a couple hundred thousand bucks, it will be $113.5 million.

And teams are handling their newfound spending power the same way Tom Hanks' character did when he got his first paycheck in *Big*. The continuous rise in the cap is what made Darren Raddysh an $8.5-million-a-year defenseman. It's what prompted the Philadelphia Flyers to help make a 67-point player an $18-million-per-year man. And it's what prompted the Seattle Kraken to swing for the fences with a $15-million-per-season offer to Jason Robertson.

And it's bound to make teams do a lot more drastic stuff, as fans get used to the guy who was once a $5-million player becoming a $7-million man. It will be fascinating to see where all of this goes this season, along with a few other things we're keeping on the radar.

1. BACK TO 84

You didn't think these guys were going to get all this money and not have to earn it, did you? For the first time in more than 30 years, when teams played two neutral-site games each in 1992-93 and '93-94, the NHL is increasing its schedule to 84 games for each club. Two more spins around the ice might not seem like much, but when teams are already taxing their star players, it could be the difference between being healthy and missing the playoffs with an injury. Can you say NBA-style load management?

TOP LEFT: NATHAN RAY SEEBECK-IMAGN IMAGES; TOP MIDDLE: JOHN E. SOKOLOWSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS; TOP RIGHT & BOTTOM MIDDLE: ROB GRAY-IMAGN IMAGES; BOTTOM LEFT: GEOFF BURKE-USA TODAY SPORTS; BOTTOM RIGHT: SAM NAVARRO-IMAGN IMAGES

10 THINGS TO WATCH

MATTHEW TKACHUK

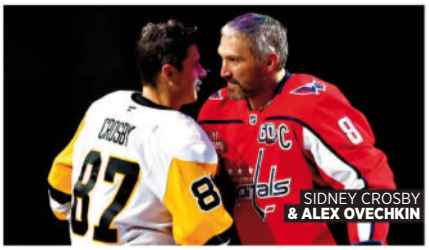
2. THE PANTHER PARKWAY BULLIES

Getting Aleksander Barkov back will undoubtedly improve the Florida Panthers' prospects of getting back to the playoffs and competing for the Stanley Cup, but they offset the return of the perennial Lady Byng candidate by assembling an even larger array of miscreants. While they unloaded sneaky-dirty A.J. Greer, they added Brady Tkachuk, Radko Gudas and Garnet Hathaway to a group that already includes Matthew Tkachuk, Brad Marchand and Sam Bennett. It might be a good idea for the Department of Player Safety to have Bill Zito on speed dial. Which brings us to…

MIKE BABCOCK

4. CAN MIKE BE MAGIC IN EDMONTON?

An unrepentant Mike Babcock made it clear in his first press conference as coach of the Edmonton Oilers that he has little intention of deviating from the style he has employed for pretty much all of his career. Whether that results in a Stanley Cup parade or a tire fire in northern Alberta, it will make for a gripping drama. But if some iteration of the three-headed monster of Frederik Andersen, Tristan Jarry and Devon Levi can't solve the Oilers' goaltending problems, Babcock could be the second coming of Jack Adams, Toe Blake, Al Arbour and Scotty Bowman wrapped into one, and it wouldn't make a difference.


SIDNEY CROSBY & ALEX OVECHKIN

5. OVI AND SID, PART XXII

You can never tell with these freaks, but wouldn't it be something if Alex Ovechkin and Sidney Crosby used this season as a farewell tour and rode off into the sunset after 22 years? We have no idea what these guys have in mind, but what if Ovechkin scores 35 goals again this season, which would leave him just 36 short of 1,000? And passing Wayne Gretzky is great and all, but when you have the opportunity to knock Cal Clutterbuck off his roost, you take it. Ovechkin will become the all-time leader in hits if he registers 153 this season.

LANDON DUPONT

6. LOSE FOR LANDON

The far-too-early front-runner for top pick in the 2027 NHL draft is defenseman Landon DuPont, who, if he does go first overall, will be picked 27 years after and 269 choices ahead of his father, Micki. Taking his talents to the University of Michigan after playing with the Everett Silvertips last season, DuPont hopes to become the second consecutive player to go from starring in the WHL to being selected No. 1 after making the jump to college hockey. DuPont's status will be challenged by Alexis Joseph, Milan Sundstrom, Nazar Privalov and likely some other pimply-faced kid nobody beyond scouts and draft nerds has ever heard of yet.

3. THE ATLANTIC ARMS RACE

If the Pacific Division was a pillow fight last season, the Atlantic could be Armageddon this year. Already home to five of the league's top 10 regular-season teams, and the only division to boast five playoff teams in 2025-26, the Atlantic continues to be a battleground. The Panthers will be much better if they can remain healthy. The Lightning will be the Lightning. The Buffalo Sabres and Montreal Canadiens served notice that they're serious about being contenders. And while only time will tell if the Toronto Maple Leafs' array of moves will make them vastly better, there will be no shortage of intrigue.

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10 THINGS

TO WATCH

GARY BETTMAN

MARTY WALSH

7. YAY FOR THE CBA

Labor issues just don't have the rancor they did in the good old days, when everyone knew a lockout was coming from two years out and the leadership of the NHLPA and the league weren't constantly holding hands and singing *Kumbaya*. This season marks the start of a new collective bargaining agreement that will guarantee labor peace for the next four years. It will also allow players to keep demanding no-move clauses that will tie them to their teams for the duration of their contracts. Unless, of course, they decide they want to move on, but only to Vegas or Florida. Which brings us to…

CONNOR HELLEBUYCK

DYLAN LARKIN

8. NO TEAM U.S., EH?

With American stars Quinn Hughes and Brady Tkachuk forcing their way out of Canadian markets with trade requests, there is some fear north of the 49th parallel, and in some smaller U.S. markets, that others will follow suit. Already, Connor Hellebuyck of the Winnipeg Jets and Dylan Larkin of the Detroit Red Wings have expressed a desire to move. Norris Trophy winner Zach Werenski now says he wants to stay in Columbus, but that won't stop the chatter about his future. Both Hellebuyck and Larkin have term on their deals, so there's no immediate pressure for their teams to trade them.

9. UFA WATCH

The crop of UFAs for the summer of 2027 is boffo – until it isn't because many of them will be signed during the season. Leading the way is Colorado Avalanche defenseman Cale Makar, who will at some point become the league's highest-earning player. Quinn Hughes will have to decide whether his future will be in Minnesota. And another 100-point season from Kucherov at 34 would make it difficult for the Tampa Bay Lightning not to offer him another big-money, long-term contract to retain his services.

10. GO, REST OF THE WORLD!

Certainly tired of seeing its All-Star Weekend festivities turn into a snore fest where nobody hits and nobody cares, the NHL is trying something new with its mid-season showcase. Scheduled for Feb. 5 and 6 on Long Island, the event will be a 3-on-3 tournament featuring teams made up of players from Canada, the U.S., Sweden, Finland and 'The Rest Of The World.' Each player on the winning team stands to take home almost $182,000, which is not chump change…Wait, we've just been told that $182,000 is indeed c h u m p - c h a n g e, couch-cushion money by NHL standards.

BETTMAN: TIMOTHY T. LUDWIG-IMAGN IMAGES; WALSH: GEOFF BURKE-IMAGN IMAGES; HELLEBUYCK: MARC DESROSIERS-IMAGN IMAGES; LARKIN: DAVID KIROUAC-IMAGN IMAGES

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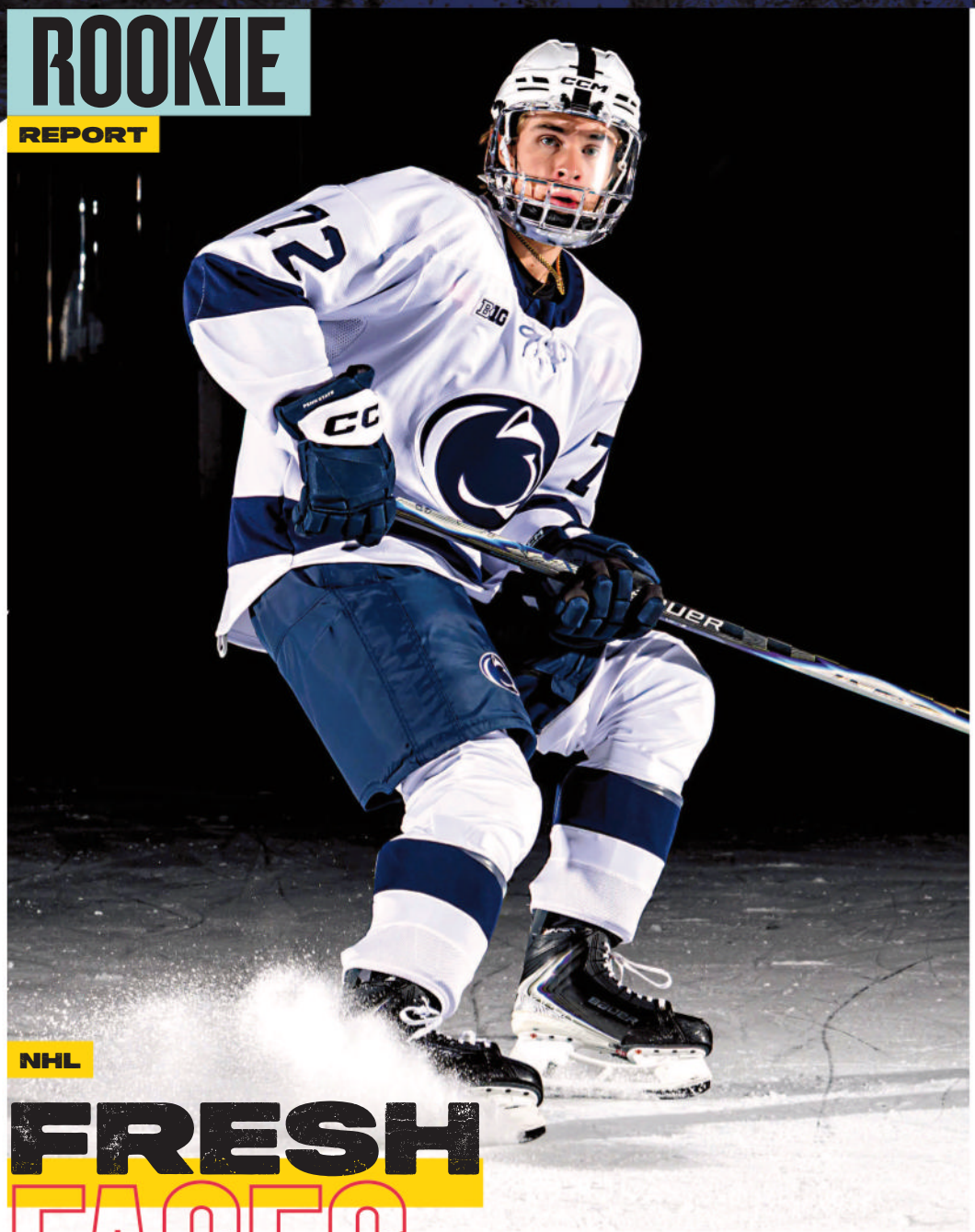


NHL

FRESH FACES

From fascinating forwards to dazzling defenders, the upcoming rookie crop is bound to catch the attention of the hockey world

BY RYAN KENNEDY

HOW MUCH DOES EXPERIENCE matter? The jump from major junior or college to the pro level is big – some learned hockey folk have even surmised that going from a developmental league to the AHL is harder than going from the AHL to the NHL. Getting a taste of the top level of hockey can help, but it's not necessarily the key to immediate success.

Take Matthew Schaefer, for instance. The New York Islanders defenseman went straight from the 2025 draft to the NHL, and even though he missed the majority of his draft season with OHL Erie due to injury, he was divine on the Isles' blueline last year. Schaefer ran away with the Calder Trophy, earning every single first-place vote in the process. No previous pro experience was necessary. The same can be said for Anaheim's Beckett Sennecke, who played one post-draft season with OHL Oshawa before joining the Ducks and finishing third in Calder voting.

On the other hand, Montreal Canadiens star Ivan Demidov, the Calder runner-up, got into seven NHL games – including playoffs – the year prior, while Habs teammate Jakub Dobes, who finished fourth in Calder voting, played 19 total games in 2024-25.

Here's a look at the top rookies – with and without NHL experience – to watch this season.

GAVIN MCKENNA LW, TOR

THE MAIN DRAW WITH McKenna is the elite vision and playmaking ability he brings to the table. Luckily for him, he has two potential goal-scoring centers he could find chemistry with in Auston Matthews and John Tavares in Toronto. And while there will certainly be pressure on the No. 1 pick from the 2026 draft, it's lessened by the fact the Leafs also landed Sergei Bobrovsky and Darren Raddysh this summer. Having said that, the poise and calm with which McKenna has already handled himself in the past few hype-filled years will serve him well in the glaring Toronto media spotlight.

IVAR STENBERG LW, SJ

MUCH LIKE MCKENNA, STENBERG can hop straight from the 2026 draft – where he went immediately after at No. 2 – and into the NHL as part of a forward corps that already has weapons. In fact, the Sharks feature one of the world's most dangerous players in Macklin Celebrini. Whether Stenberg lines up on Celebrini's wing or elsewhere, the 19-year-old brings an excellent array of offensive skills – and also a well-rounded game for someone his age. If Stenberg and the likes of Michael Misa and Will Smith can add more support for Celebrini, this might even be a playoff team.

MCKENNA: MARK SELDERS/PENN STATE ATHLETICS; STENBERG: PHOTO BY FROLUNDA HC

PORTER MARTONE RW, PHI

THE EARLY RETURNS ON Martone were amazing in Philadelphia. The power forward joined the Flyers after his excellent freshman NCAA season at Michigan State and proceeded to put up 10 points in nine NHL games. He then continued to contribute in the playoffs, where the surprising Flyers even won a round against Pittsburgh, before suiting up for Canada at the World Championship. With his size, skill and snarl, Martone was practically born to be a Flyer. And considering that bigger players tend to take more time to hit their NHL peak, we could be looking at a monster here.

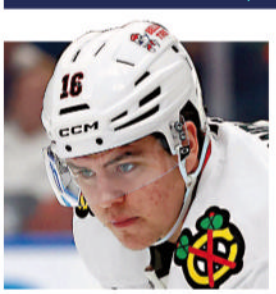
COLE HUTSON D, WSH

ANOTHER PLAYER WHO FINISHED his NCAA career before seeing NHL action last season, Hutson was a standout defenseman for Boston University the past two seasons. He also made an immediate impact at the pro level, racking up 10 points in 14 games for Washington. Hutson is a modern-style offensive defenseman who makes up for a lack of bruising size with his mind and skill. He's bigger than brother Lane – but not as fast. Nonetheless, the family formula has worked so far, and it wouldn't be shocking to see Hutson in the Calder conversation.

RYAN UFKO D, NSH

THROUGHOUT THEIR HISTORY, THE Predators have been known for drafting and developing top-notch D-men. From Shea Weber to Ryan Suter to Roman Josi to Mattias Ekholm to Seth Jones, Nashville is Blueline University. The latest bright light is Ufko, who notched 11 points in 18 games after getting called up from AHL Milwaukee in early March. Ufko is smart, deceptive and great with the puck. Nashville also has center Brady Martin, who saw action early last season before heading back to OHL Sault Ste. Marie. Martin is strong and has skill to go with it.

ANTON FRONDELL C, CHI



FRONDELL SHOWED WELL PLAYING against men last season with Djurgarden, where he led SHL junior-aged scorers with 20 goals in 43 games. He was also an integral part of Sweden's gold medal WJC team before joining the Hawks at the end of 2025-26. In 12 NHL games, he put up nine points. That's great news for Chicago, as the team needs talent around Connor Bedard. With Frondell's solid frame, competitive fire and wicked shot, he has the chops to be one of those difference-makers. He's another name to regard when it comes to the Calder chase.

KONSTA HELENIUS C, BUF

WHEN THE SABRES NEEDED Helenius to step up in the playoffs, he was there. He jumped into the Stanley Cup field in the second round against Montreal and chipped in offense and solid minutes. Helenius took a big developmental step with AHL Rochester last season, leading the team with 63 points in 63 games. In nine regular-season games with Buffalo, he chipped in four points. But it was the post-season where he really proved his worth, showing off a tenacious game that was exactly what the Sabres needed both now and in the future.

JAMES HAGENS C, BOS

THE BRUINS HAVE SURVIVED without a true No. 1 center for several years now, but it's not an ideal situation. With David Pastrnak still one of the top-scoring right wingers in the NHL, it would behoove Boston to find him a runningmate. In Hagens, you have an incredibly intelligent player with lots of skill. Is he a true top-line center? That may be a stretch. But could he be a solid setup man for Pastrnak in the near future? There is potential there. Ideally, Hagens would be a No. 2, but wherever he fits into the Boston lineup, he's going to bring offense and the ability to open up space for those around him.

ILYA PROTAS LW, WSH

YOU HAVE TO HAND it to Washington coach Spencer Carbery. When he had the chance to put together a trio who weighed a total of 700 pounds, he took said opportunity. Calling up Protas from the AHL and putting him on a line with older brother Aliaksei and power forward Tom Wilson was a stroke of genius, especially when Ilya put up four points in his first four games. At 6-foot-6 and 225 pounds, 'Lil Pro' may have one of hockey's most ironic nicknames, but he's more than just size. He led the Hershey Bears in scoring, with 66 points in 69 games.

VIGGO BJORCK C, WPG

IT'S NOT OFTEN A player drafted outside the top five is slotted into an NHL lineup right away, but Winnipeg has high hopes for Bjorck. The Jets need a second-line center, and they believe this summer's eighth pick overall can make a run for the job. Bjorck was fantastic at the WJC and thrived in the SHL last season. The hope is he can use his elite hockey sense and skill to be an immediate difference-maker. The only knock on Bjorck in his draft year was his height (5-foot-9), but he's physically strong. He will still have a steep learning curve since he's never played regularly on North American ice, but his smarts will help him.

MARTONE: ERIC HARTLINE-IMAGN IMAGES; HUTSON: STEPHEN R. SYLVANIE-IMAGN IMAGES; UFKO: STEVE ROBERTS-IMAGN IMAGES; FRONDELL: PERRY NELSON-IMAGN IMAGES; HELENIUS: JOHN E. SOKOLOWSKI-IMAGN IMAGES; PROTAS: NICK TURCHIARO-IMAGN IMAGES; HAGENS: BOB DECHIARA-IMAGN IMAGES; BJORCK: PHOTO BY DJURGARDENS IF

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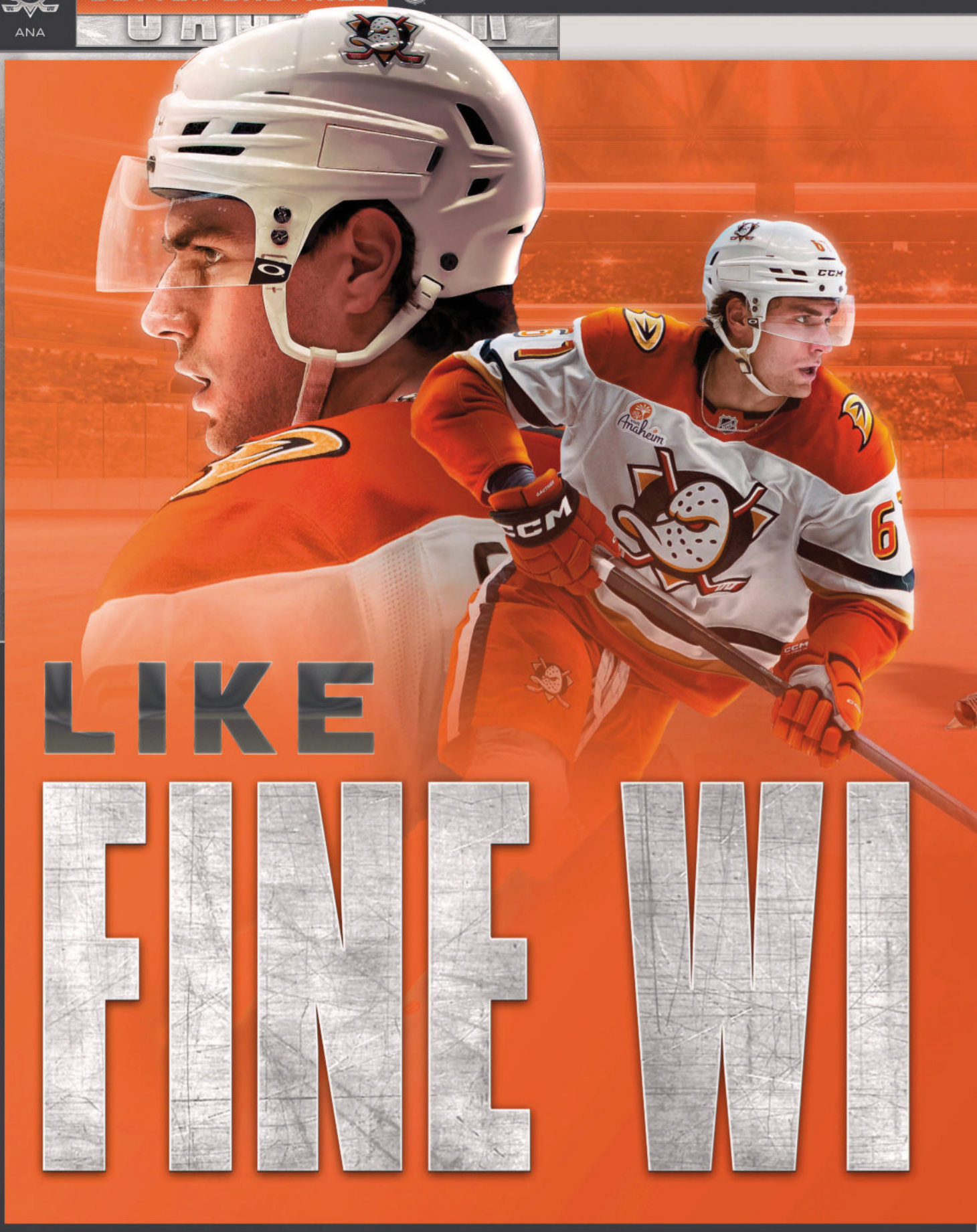
CUTTER GAUTHIER

#61 • F • ANAHEIM DUCKS



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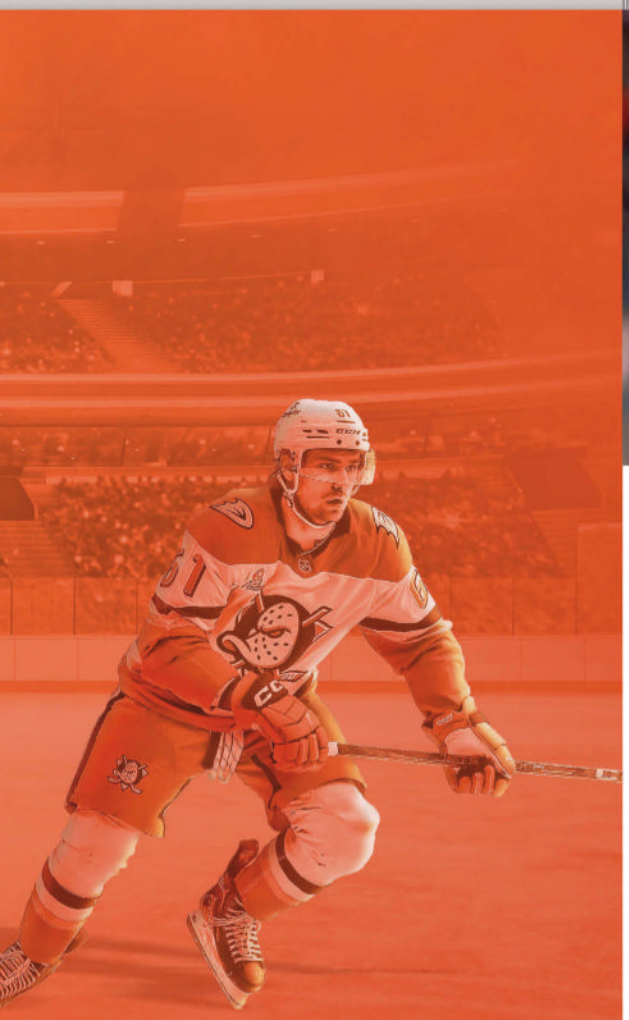

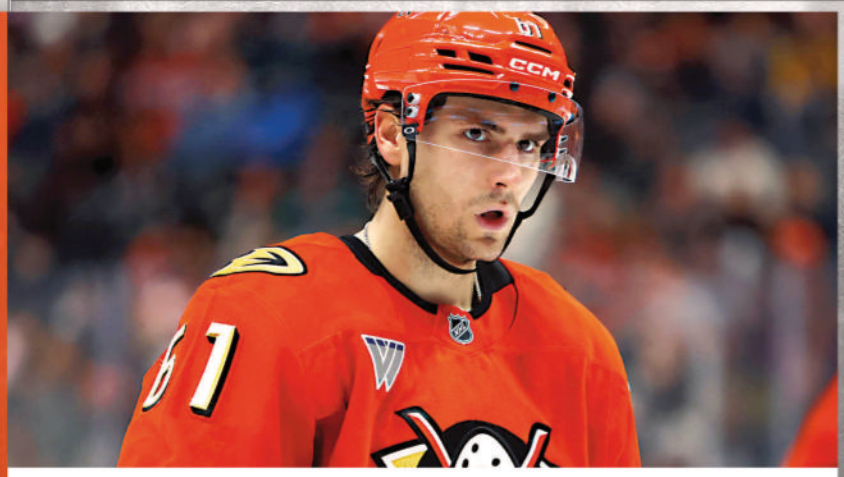

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CUTTER GAUTHIER'S SKILL SET HAS CERTAINLY PUT THE REST OF THE NHL ON NOTICE. AND IF HIS GAME CONTINUES TO AGE LIKE IT HAS, THE ANAHEIM DUCKS' FUTURE LOOKS MIGHTY BRIGHT BY KEN CAMPBELL

FOR A COUPLE OF years after the pandemic, the good folks who work at Northville Winery and Brewing Co. in suburban Detroit would occasionally find a puck lodged in one of their grape crates. Turns out, it was the kid across the road who was the culprit. He didn't shoot the pucks from his house, because that would be crazy, but every day, while people were staying home and waiting out the scourge, 16-year-old Cutter Gauthier would lug a net and five buckets full of pucks across the parking lot to the back of the building and take at least 500 shots a day, with the grape crates strategically placed behind the net to catch the ones that missed. That might not sound like a lot until you actually try to shoot 500 pucks in one session – or somewhere in the range of 180,000-plus a year.

So perhaps Toronto Maple Leafs goalie Anthony Stolarz shouldn't feel too bad about letting that puck between his legs back in March. After all, it was registered by someone who is rapidly becoming one of the planet's premier goal-scorers. In fact, Gauthier is so good at putting pucks past goalies – this is where you say, "How good is he?" – that he can score goals with a broken back. "Yeah, I guess there aren't too many people who can say that," he said. "I'll take that."

You may recall that game between Gauthier's Anaheim Ducks and the Maple Leafs on the night of March 30, better known as The Auston Matthews Revenge Game™. Two-and-a-half weeks prior, resident menace and then-Ducks defenseman Radko Gudas deliberately went knee-on-knee against Matthews and knocked him out for the season. You may also recall the Leafs getting roasted for a lack of in-game response or that Gudas was ejected and received a five-game suspension. When the Leafs visited the Ducks next, there was a lot of chatter about the response. The only weird thing is that the hit from Leafs defenseman Jake McCabe that broke the L-1 and L-2 vertebrae in

LEFT & MIDDLE: BOB FRID-IMAGN IMAGES; RIGHT: PERRY NELSON-IMAGN IMAGES

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CUTTER GAUTHIER

#61 • F • ANAHEIM DUCKS

> **"I WANT TO SCORE AS MANY GOALS AS I POSSIBLY CAN, WHETHER IT'S 50, 60 OR WHATEVER THE NUMBER MAY BE IN MY FUTURE** - CUTTER GAUTHIER

Gauthier's lower back was about as innocuous as they come. Sure, it was a cross-check, but it didn't seem particularly vicious, especially in a league that is about as vigilant on its cross-checking infractions as most local constabularies are about jaywalking. "He just got me right where there was no padding," Gauthier said. "The second he cross-checked me there, I knew something was wrong. I just stopped moving. I'm stuck on the wall, and it's just the worst pain I've ever felt. (Mikael) Granlund got the puck back to me, and honestly, I got the puck, and I wanted to just shoot it on net so I can get a whistle and skate off the ice because I was hurt so bad. And I tried to shoot it right in his gut, and I couldn't lift the puck because my back hurt so bad."

That goal was the 38th of the 41 Gauthier scored last season, which tied him for 11th in the league. Among players who played more than 50 games, his rate of 1.51 goals per 60 at 5-on-5 was tied for fifth in the league with Anthony Mantha. His 285 shots were sixth overall, but who scores from distance anymore? Well, Gauthier does. His 117 shots and 18 goals from mid-range distance were good for fourth – or tied for fourth – in the league. "I can guarantee that of those 18 goals, probably nine of them were just me flinging the puck and hoping for something to happen," Gauthier said. "And it's also knowing when there's a good screen because the goalies are so good that if he can see that puck, he's making the save 99 percent of the time. You want to shoot where it's hard to read the puck because he's just guessing at that point. And sometimes, his guess is wrong."

Gauthier's scoring prowess is a great example of goal-scorers being made, not born. After all, there was nothing to suggest Gauthier would be an elite scorer, or an elite anything, when he embarked on his hockey journey in Scottsdale, Ariz., in a furniture store that had been converted into a facility with two small ice pads. Gauthier's father, Sean – a journeyman minor-pro goalie who played three minutes for the San Jose Sharks in 1999 while Steve Shields was getting his equipment fixed and stopped two slappers from Bob Probert and Tony Amonte – would train goalies while Cutter did snow angels.

On the other rink, you could often find a young Auston Matthews, Tage Thompson or Josh Doan. The younger Gauthier found his way in hockey, but everything changed when he was 10 and joined a group of kids

LEFT: SERGEI BELSKI-IMAGN IMAGES

from Arizona, California and Nevada for the Brick Invitational Hockey Tournament, held every summer in Edmonton. After watching Gauthier score the shootout winner against Little Caesars, one of the fathers of the opposing team approached Sean and asked him if he wanted to move to Detroit. The late Jeffrey Brzustewicz was recruiting players to play for Honeybaked with his son, Hunter, and another undersized defenseman by the name of Lane Hutson. Brzustewicz had also approached the Nazar and McGroarty families wanting Frank and Rutger to play. The Gauthiers decided to make the move, and that was where Cutter excelled, playing for a team that went 255-7-11 over four seasons. "We won everything," Sean said. "It got to the point where we would get invited to tournaments, and they would pay our entry fee so that other teams would enter. We were just manhandling everybody."

Gauthier joined rival Compuware for his under-16 season, then it was off to USA Hockey's National Team Development Program and Boston College, where he spent an extra season after being drafted fifth overall by the Philadelphia Flyers in 2022. And as was the case with guys such as Cale Makar and Quinn Hughes, it paid off enormously for Gauthier, who scored 38 goals and was recognized as the No. 2 prospect outside the NHL in The Hockey News' annual Future Watch edition.

It was also the season that he came to the conclusion he wasn't going to sign with the Flyers, largely because of receiving what Gauthier and his family perceived as mixed messages from the Flyers at the time.

MID-RANGE MAULER

Gauthier's 18 mid-range goals tied him for fourth in the NHL last year.

Gauthier has never gone into detail about the rift, but it was clear by mid-season that the situation with the Flyers had become untenable, and he was dealt to the Ducks for defenseman Jamie Drysdale and a second-round pick. "In his first game in Philadelphia, we had to have a police escort," Sean said. "As a father and a mother, to have your 20-year-old son on the ice and 18,000 people saying, 'F--- you, Cutter!' every shift is pretty disheartening. For a year, we had death threats…phone calls, text messages and emails from people who were from all over the place."

Thankfully, the vitriol has died down, and Gauthier has found a home with the Ducks, a team that looks to be developing into a very big problem for the rest of the league in the near future. Imagine having all that fun on the ice with young guys such as Leo Carlsson and Beckett Sennecke, then hanging out at Newport Beach on your off days.

Of course, Gauthier could have been doing all of this as Bauer Gauthier, which is almost as awesome a hockey name as Cutter. When Kim Gauthier was pregnant, Sean was playing in Sweden, and during a visit from her mother, "Cutter" won out over "Bauer" after Kim's mother saw it in a Swedish cookbook. It's still kind of a mystery how that happened, as the closest word to Cutter in Swedish is katter, which translates to cats. Either that, or we really don't want to know what kind of recipes they put in Swedish cookbooks.

> **"I'LL KEEP SHOOTING THE PUCK AND HOPING THEY GO IN** - CUTTER GAUTHIER

Gauthier has made his mark as a scorer, but he has rounded out his game. There is still work to do, though, because there's always work to do when you're 22 and playing in the NHL. But the goal is to further earn the trust of Ducks coach Joel Quenneville, which will give him more than the 17:15 of ice time he averaged last season and the increased number of offensive opportunities that will come with it. "I want to score as many goals as I possibly can, whether it's 50, 60 or whatever the number may be in my future," Gauthier said. "But I'll keep shooting the puck and hoping they go in."

Spoken like a true marksman. And even though they're not finding pucks lodged in grape crates at the Northville Winery and Brewing Co. anymore, the kid who put them there is counting on aging as well as the inventory they sell there. H

RIGHT: ERIC HARTLINE-IMAGN IMAGES

ON THE UP AND UP AND UP

NIKITA KUCHEROV CONTINUES TO HAVE A BURNING DESIRE TO GET BETTER. AND GIVEN THAT THE REIGNING HART TROPHY WINNER IS ALREADY IN THE TOP ECHELON OF NHL STARS, THAT DOESN'T BODE WELL FOR HIS OPPONENTS ACROSS THE NHL BY MICHAEL TRAIKOS

THE MOST EXCLUSIVE summer skate in the NHL also happens to be one of the least attended. Nikita Kucherov doesn't plan it that way. In theory, pretty much anyone is welcome to join the Tampa Bay Lightning right winger for a workout. But there are conditions.

You have to show up when Kucherov shows up. You have to be ready to train as hard as Kucherov trains. And there are no skip days – even if the summer skates are sometimes held in early spring.

Case in point: the day after the Lightning's season ended in a Game 7 loss to the Montreal Canadiens in the first round of the Stanley Cup playoffs – in which Kucherov was held off the scoresheet for the final three games of the series – the 33-year-old was on the phone with his agent, Dan Milstein, asking him to book ice time as quickly as possible. "Everybody wants to be like 'Kuch,' " Milstein said. "Not everyone wants to do the work to be like him."

Not surprisingly, Kucherov was at the Lightning's practice facility when the NHL awarded him the Hart Trophy after he finished the season with 44 goals and 130 points. It was his second MVP award and the fourth consecutive year in which he finished in the top three in scoring. But for Kucherov, it was a practice day. So after pulling a hoodie over a sweat-soaked T-shirt for the photo/video op, the three-time scoring champion accepted the award and went back to training. Lightning coach Jon Cooper was on hand for the award presentation and had this to say: "One of the great things that makes 'Kuch' Kuch is that he's never satisfied. He could have 50 goals one year. Well, he wants 51 the next year. He could have 100 assists one year. He might want 110 the next year. That's the growth of Kuch. He doesn't put that above the team."

The Hart Trophy is awarded "to the player adjudged to be the most valuable to his team." You could apply that definition to pretty much any superstar. But take away Kucherov, who finished with 42 more points than any other Tampa Bay player, and the Lightning would not have made the playoffs, never mind finished second in the Atlantic Division and fifth overall in the league. In a year where Brayden Point, Victor Hedman, Anthony Cirelli and several others missed

TOP: ERIC BOLTE-USA TODAY SPORTS; BOTTOM LEFT & RIGHT: NATHAN RAY SEEBECK/IMAGN IMAGES

Bauer
TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING
HOCKEY CLUB
NHL

time with injuries, they wouldn't have come anywhere close to the season they had.

Kucherov not only led the team in goals, assists and points, but he also topped the NHL with a 1.71 points-per-game rate. Then again, as Cooper said, Kucherov keeps raising the bar for himself over and over again.

Not including 2020-21, when he missed the entire regular season because of a hip injury that required surgery, Kucherov has reached the 100-point mark in six of the past eight seasons. Over the past 10 years, only Connor McDavid, Leon Draisaitl and Nathan MacKinnon have produced more points, which is even more impressive when you consider that Kucherov has played 78 fewer games than Draisaitl and 64 fewer games than MacKinnon over that time.

It's also impressive because nothing about Kucherov's game really stands out. He's not as fast as McDavid, as big as Draisaitl or as explosive as MacKinnon. His best attribute might be his work ethic, followed closely by his brain, which is probably why Canadiens coach Martin St-Louis called him a "chess master."

> **"EVERYBODY WANTS TO BE LIKE 'KUCH.' NOT EVERYONE WANTS TO DO THE WORK TO BE LIKE HIM**
> -KUCHEROV'S AGENT DAN MILSTEIN

Kucherov is always plotting his next move. He's also always learning and getting better.

Though St-Louis only spent part of one season as Kucherov's teammate in Tampa Bay, the Canadiens coach jokingly said it was as though Kucherov picked up a career's worth of knowledge by shadowing him around the ice in an attempt to steal some of his secrets. "I feel like I didn't have much time with him," he said. "But I know there's plenty of times when I played on the power play, I kind of played in that spot (that Kucherov occupies). So there were some times where we spent time in that spot. He was very curious and hungry to get better. I wouldn't say he was asking a lot of questions. But he was paying attention to a lot of things."

When Kucherov asked Milstein to be his agent in 2017, the joke was that he did so to get closer to Milstein's client Pavel Datsyuk. At the time, Kucherov wanted nothing

DAVID KIROUAC-IMAGN IMAGES

more than to be the next Datsyuk, which led to a lot of questions about how Datsyuk trains, how he shoots and how he handles the puck. When the answer came back that there were no shortcuts, just hard work, Kucherov then asked Milstein what it would take to get a rink installed inside his home so he could practise more. That led Kucherov to install a synthetic ice surface in his garage.

TAMPA TERROR

Kucherov's 1.71 PPG average propelled him to his second Hart.

When he's not at the rink, Kucherov is in his garage shooting pucks and stickhandling. One day this year, Milstein arrived at Kucherov's house and found him in the garage practising off-balanced, bad-angle shots. He thought nothing of it. But a week later, Kucherov took a pass in the slot from Jake Guentzel and, while off balance, scored the 400th goal of his career. "Oh my gosh, what a goal," Milstein said. "He didn't even have to look. He was practising that shot to the point where he cannot miss."

In the first round against Montreal, shutdown center Phillip Danault was asked what the difference is in defending McDavid and Kucherov. The answer? With McDavid, you have to watch him like a hawk. But with Kucherov, you have to watch everyone around him. "It's way different than facing McDavid," he said. "Everyone is mesmerized by McDavid's speed and the puck carrier. With Kuch, it's a little different. It's not really about one player."

"ONE OF THE GREAT THINGS THAT MAKES 'KUCH' KUCH IS HE'S NEVER SATISFIED

-LIGHTNING COACH JON COOPER

In Game 4 against Montreal, the Canadiens were watching Kucherov – well, mugging might be a more accurate description. But with all the attention they were giving him, others went unnoticed. And so with Tampa Bay on the power play, Brandon Hagel snuck behind the Habs' defense and connected on a cross-crease pass from Kucherov. A little while later, Kucherov instructed Hagel to once again go hard to the net, and this time, he banked a shot in off Hagel's body.

Just like that, Kucherov had a pair of assists in a 3-2 win. And he did it in a game where he was seemingly quiet.

Ultimately, Kucherov couldn't find a way to get Tampa Bay past Montreal, and it was a loss that hit the two-time Stanley Cup champion hard. But while the Habs were battling the Carolina Hurricanes in the Eastern Conference final, Kucherov was battling invisible defenders in his ongoing pursuit of excellence. And he was doing it alone. "The only competition he has," Milstein said, "is himself." H

TOP: STEPHEN R. SYLVANIE-USA TODAY SPORTS; BOTTOM: DAVID KIROUAC-IMAGN IMAGES

VEG

VEG

MITCH MARNER

#93 • F • VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS

SHIFTING TIDES

WITH THE GOLDEN KNIGHTS' TALENT AND DEPTH, THERE WAS LESS PRESSURE ON MITCH MARNER TO BE 'THE GUY.' AND THANKS TO THAT RELIEF, HE FOUND ANOTHER LEVEL IN THE PLAYOFFS – ONE THAT NEARLY SAW HIM HOIST THE STANLEY CUP AND CONN SMYTHE

BY RYAN KENNEDY

LEFT: STEPHEN R. SYLVANIE-IMAGN IMAGES; MIDDLE: LUCAS PELTIER-IMAGN IMAGES; RIGHT: BOB FRID-IMAGN IMAGES

ACCORDING TO HUNTER S. Thompson, North Las Vegas is where you go when you've messed up too many times and aren't even allowed in the cut-rate places on The Strip. Of course, this was back in 1971, when Thompson penned his literary classic *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*. Now, there are no cut-rate places on The Strip – and Bruno Mars has his own street.

There's also a growing suburb that is technically west of Las Vegas proper, known as Summerlin, which is distinctly not for people who have messed up. It's home to many of the NHL's Vegas Golden Knights, including Mitch Marner.

About a 20-minute drive from the chaos of The Strip, Summerlin is a picturesque American suburb with palm trees, mountain views and, most importantly, peace. "It's pretty low-key and quiet," said Golden Knights defenseman Noah Hanifin. "We really only go down to The Strip for games. There's great weather, and it's beautiful. It's a calm place to live. And we all live pretty close to each other, which is nice. It's easy living."

For Marner, Summerlin is a geographical metaphor for the fresh start he got in Vegas after a tumultuous exit from Toronto – the domain of the Maple Leafs and the only franchise he had played for before the sign-and-trade that sent him to Nevada last summer. With his wife and infant son, the gifted right winger has planted roots in Summerlin, where he can enjoy the space and catch up

with friends without worrying that his address is going to be doxxed by an overzealous stranger who wants to toss garbage on his lawn if he doesn't live up to expectations on the ice. "I'm always talking to guys throughout the season," he said. "One of my best buddies is Jake Muzzin. I'm always talking to Jake and Kyle Clifford, who is another good friend of mine. And of course, there are legends I played with like Joe Thornton and Patrick Marleau. I talk to Matt Martin as well – all those guys. I FaceTime with those guys when Miles is napping. I'll go outside, and we'll catch up."

MAGIC MITTS

Despite losing to the Canes, Marner led the NHL in playoff points.

While the regular season was rocky in Vegas, the Golden Knights pulled it together for the playoffs under the emergency tutelage of coach John Tortorella and went all the way to the team's third Stanley Cup final. They lost in six to the Carolina Hurricanes, but Marner led the NHL in playoff scoring and would have won the Conn Smythe had Vegas been victorious.

The haters will point out that Marner's offense dried up in the latter half of the final, but he was also without his center, William Karlsson, whose season-ending wrist injury was a turning point.

What cannot be denied is that Marner was a major factor in Vegas getting to the Cup final. The old narrative surrounding him as a post-season choker just doesn't wash anymore. With the Golden Knights, he didn't have the same pressure to be *the* guy, unlike his time in Toronto. And perhaps that's why he flourished in the playoffs. "Our team is deeper and a better team than what he had played on in Toronto," said Vegas GM Kelly McCrimmon. "Not that Toronto didn't have real good teams, but you have to have that depth throughout your roster because everyone's going to take their turn."

Whether it was Karlsson, Jack Eichel, Mark Stone, Pavel Dorofeyev or, incredibly in that playoff run, Brett Howden, Marner was just one of many scoring options in Vegas. And boy, did he score in the post-season. "I've always trusted myself," he said. "I've always known I could do special things no matter where you are in the season or the playoffs. I've been put in situations I've been scoring in, so it's going in the right direction. I'm building to be better, and I want to be better."

So much of Marner's first season in Vegas hinged on his teammates, especially Karlsson. One of the original 'Golden Misfits,' Karlsson missed most of the regular season due to a lower-body injury. That meant Marner spent a lot of time playing center, a position he's not accustomed to. He still had 80 points, but it was a far cry from the 102 he put up with the Leafs the year prior.

Not coincidentally, the Golden Knights struggled to find their rhythm during the season, with goaltending being another weakness. But when Tortorella came in with eight games to play, Vegas caught fire. The news got even better when Karlsson returned to the lineup for the first game of the team's second-round series against the Anaheim Ducks. " 'Karl' brings a lot," Marner said. "I got to see him early in the year, and he was amazing. Then, of course, he had the injury. Since he came back, it was great watching how responsible he is with the puck and how responsible he is on our line. He makes a lot of moments that make things easy for his wingers or D-men."

At the same time, Carter Hart was excellent in goal, and Howden became a dark horse Conn Smythe candidate (he finished

"I'M BEING PUT IN SITUATIONS WHERE I'M GETTING THE PUCK IN GOOD AREAS AND SCORING WHEN I GET OPPORTUNITIES" -MITCH MARNER

TOP: LUCAS PELTIER-IMAGN IMAGES; BOTTOM: JAMES GUILLORY-IMAGN IMAGES

> "I GOT WELL-ACQUAINTED WITH THE GROUP PRETTY EARLY ON, SO I JUMPED RIGHT IN
>
> -MITCH MARNER

with 14 playoff goals after just 12 in the regular season). Marner assisted on a lot of those post-season tallies, and the two were demons on the penalty kill, too. "Getting the chance to play with Mitch, especially on the PK, I've learned how to read off him and see what he's all about," Howden said. "I've been trying to find that open ice and go hard to the net. When you go hard to the net, you're usually bringing someone with you, which can open up time for him. I know he likes to make plays, and he has a great shot, too, so it's great when he shoots it."

With Howden going north-south, Marner going east-west and Karlsson as the fulcrum, the line was incredibly dangerous for Vegas. "I'm being put in situations where I'm getting the puck in good areas and scoring when I get opportunities," Marner said. "At the same time, when I put people in good areas, they're scoring as well. There's a trust in one another in different situations and scenarios."

That camaraderie extended off the ice as well. It's never easy going to a new team, but Marner wasn't going to waste time. "I'm a pretty outgoing guy," he said. "I bring a lot of energy, and I like to have fun. I like to try to get to know my teammates as quickly as possible. I got well-acquainted with the group pretty early on, so I jumped right in."

Hanifin described Marner as a laid-back guy and a great teammate, while Howden was impressed with his new linemate both on and off the ice. "He's been awesome," Howden said. "Right from the first time meeting him, you can tell how genuine a person he is. He and his wife are incredible people. You know the hockey side and how good he is, but then you see it firsthand and it's like, 'Holy smokes!' It's another level seeing it every day and in practice. We made him feel comfortable in the room right away, and it felt like he was just himself. I can't say enough good things about him."

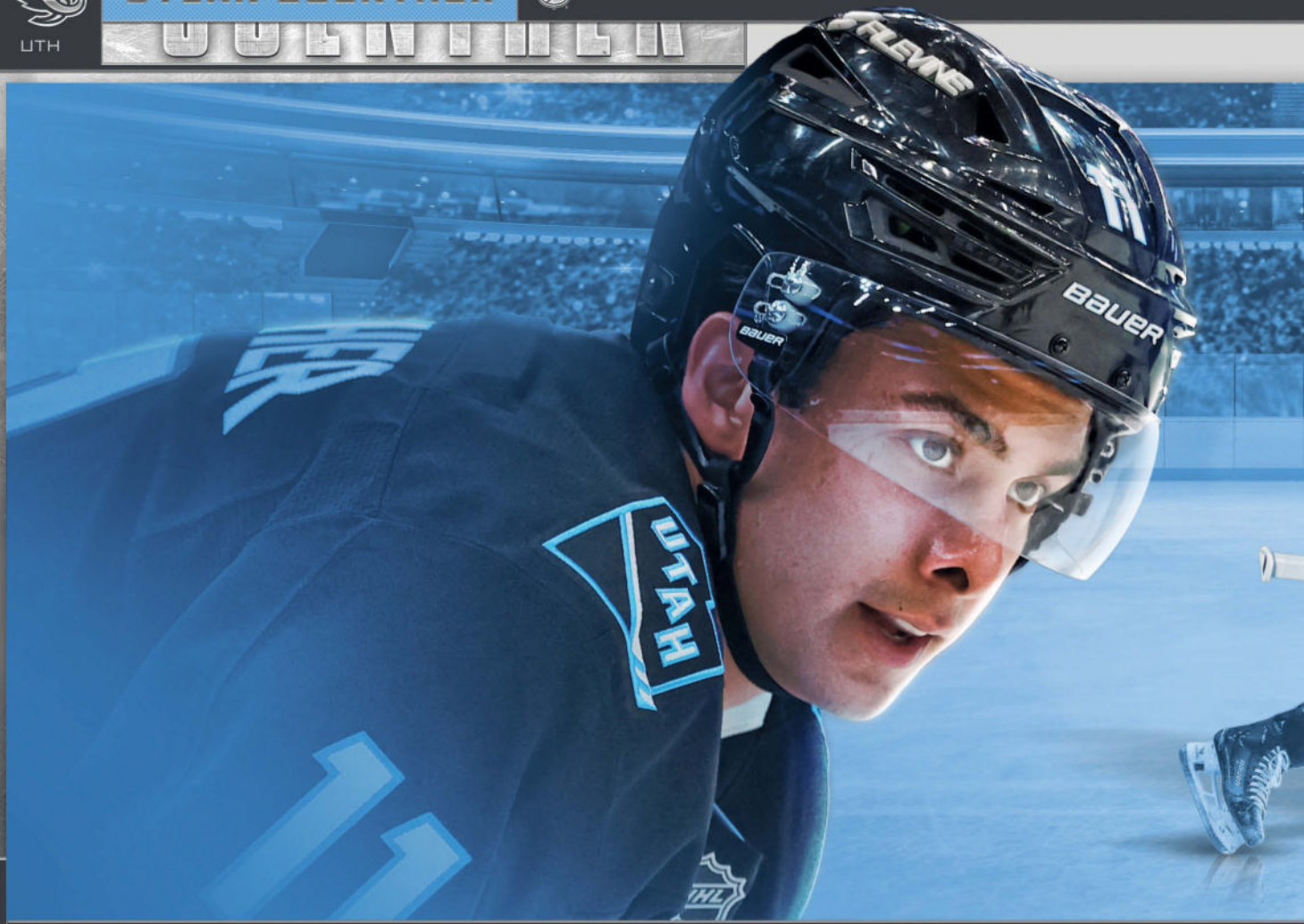
While the Golden Knights fell to Carolina in the final, this is a team built for perennial runs. Even with the loss of Dorofeyev over the summer, Vegas has a murderer's row up front and a new coach who has paid his dues in Ryan Craig, who cut his teeth with AHL Henderson before earning the NHL gig this summer.

Now that Marner has a season under his belt with Vegas, it will be intriguing to see if he can hit triple digits in points again, as he did in Toronto. He can also look at the adversity he went through in the past and how he came out of it. After Vegas' playoff exit, Marner expanded on a comment he made about going through "dark times" in Toronto. He gave credit to his Maple Leafs teammates and his family for helping him when playing hockey felt difficult due to the outside noise of social media and the pressures he faced.

And while he doesn't have a Cup ring yet, Marner can head into the 2026-27 campaign knowing he can dominate a playoff run. Not only that, but he knows that he doesn't have to do it alone. "If you look at our team, we love all four lines, and we love all three 'D' pairings," he said. "You trust whoever goes over the boards with whatever's at stake and whatever needs to be done. It's been incredible to watch."

So now, just over a year after Marner was traded to Vegas, he can go up on a steep hill in Summerlin and, with the right kind of eyes, see the high-water mark – that place where the waves of anxiety and doubt he once felt finally broke and rolled back.

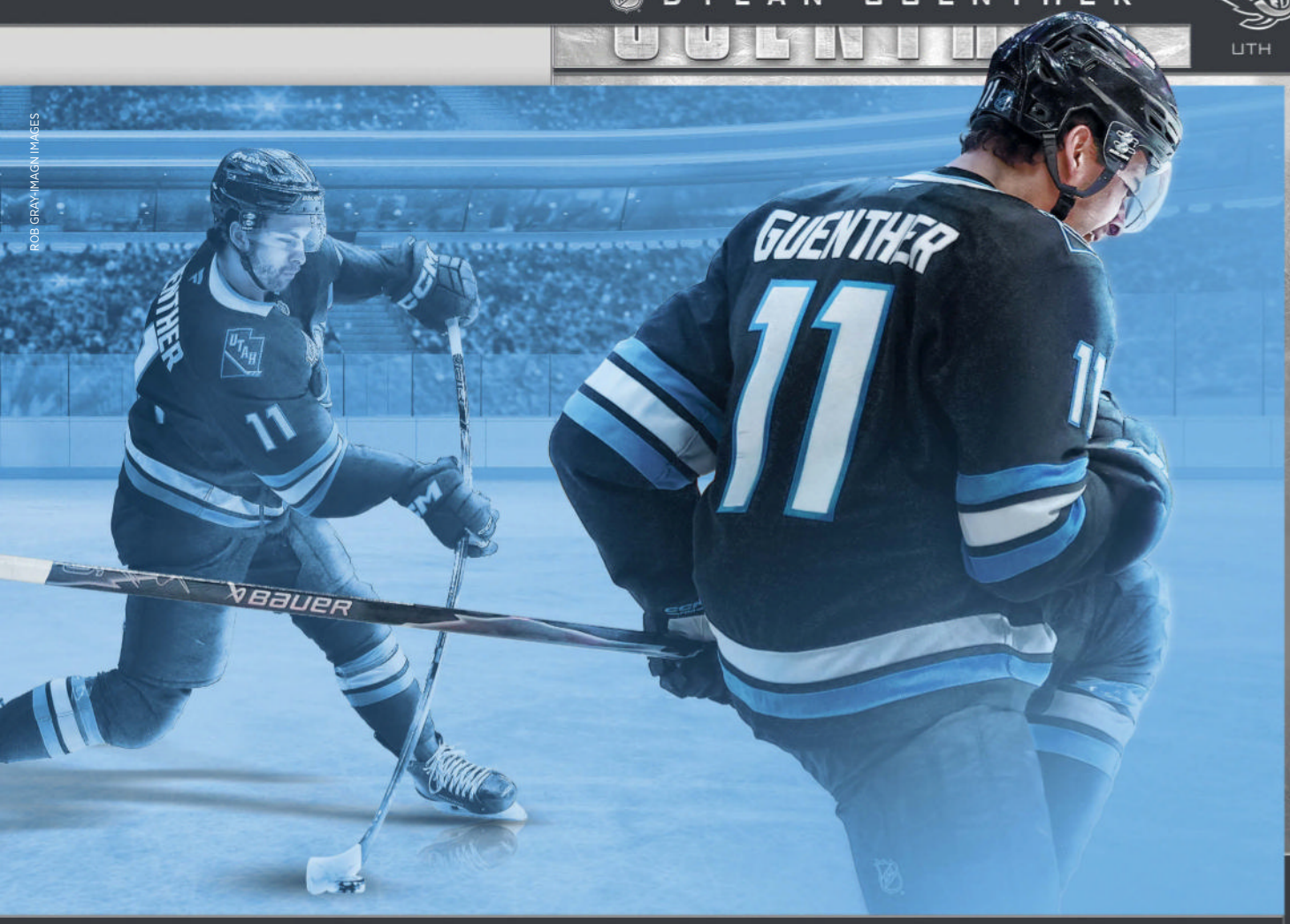
TOP: SERGEI BELSKI-IMAGN IMAGES; BOTTOM: STEPHEN R. SYLVANIE-IMAGN IMAGES



MULTI-TALENTED

DYLAN GUENTHER PUT IN PLENTY OF 'UNDERGROUND' WORK TO HONE HIS BLISTERING SHOT, AND NHL GOALIES – PLUS THEIR GOALPOSTS – ARE PAYING THE PRICE. NOW, HE'S OUT TO ADD OTHER DIMENSIONS TO HIS ALREADY-DANGEROUS GAME BY JARED CLINTON

IN ANOTHER LIFE – not this one and probably not the next one, either – maybe Dylan Guenther would have explored a life in the trades. That he was born and raised in Edmonton means Guenther hails from a true blue-collar city, one where the hometown big-league outfit pays homage to the roughnecks who make a living in Alberta's oil fields. He grew up in a place where there's respect for those whose



ROB GRAY-IMAGN IMAGES

MARKSMAN

working hours don't follow a typical 9-to-5 and an appreciation for the sweat they put into their craft.

In this life, though, Guenther's vocation is less wrench and more wrist shot, and he charted his path to the NHL not by way of construction but destruction. The basement of the Guenther family home tells that story.

For Guenther, as with many kids who grew up in frigid winter climates, the basement was his arena away from the arena. It was the concrete rink where a kid with NHL aspirations curled and dragged around structural posts and worked on his shot while tucked away from prairie winters. But in a much more literal sense – and, really, this bears repeating – it was also the *basement of his family home*.

No matter how much whimsy one paints it with, then, it must be accepted that Guenther's subterranean shooting gallery came with certain realities, such as playing host to essential arteries that keep a home ticking. And when a kid who grows up to have an elite release and the kind of one-timer that beats world-class goaltenders clean spends countless hours repeatedly ripping six-odd ounces of rubber in the same proximity as delicate household infrastructure, there are bound to be casualties. Many, many casualties. "Honestly, the basement is wrecked because of it," Guenther said. "I

> "THIS YEAR, I TRIED TO GET TO THE NET A LITTLE BIT MORE AND TRIED TO GET INSIDE A BIT MORE" -DYLAN GUENTHER

don't even know what the pipes above do or whatever, but they're all dented, and they've fallen off. It's honestly wrecked. If my parents want to do the basement, they'll probably just end up moving instead. It would kind of be a process to put it back together."

It appears, too, that while you can take the kid out of his unfinished basement, you can't take the pipe-denting out of the kid.

Since entering the NHL four seasons ago, Guenther has rung up iron 36 times, including denting crossbars more than every other skater not named Artemi Panarin or Nick Suzuki. And while that's been awful news for goaltenders' skinny red friends and the big-league arena staffs who've had to do some post-game paint jobs, it's been great news for the masked men who've stared down the Utah Mammoth right winger's shots. In all, that's three dozen times the goaltending fraternity has been saved from watching Guenther blow the puck past them – a welcome result given the other 91 times he's found pay dirt since breaking into the league.

There really is no doubt, either, that Guenther's natural goal-scoring ability has been his calling card. It was what put him on the map in youth hockey, what caught the eye of scouts when he was tearing up the WHL with the Edmonton Oil Kings and what paved the way for his rapid climb from prized prospect to top-line talent.

In truth, however, it might not have been until this past season that Guenther really – and in the minds of some, finally – reached his full potential. And in large part, that's due to hitting an important plateau: 40 goals.

The career-best scoring season made him the first 40-goal man in Mammoth history. And while the histories of Utah and Arizona are separate for NHL record-keeping purposes, if one were to draw a line back to the Coyotes, he's the team's first player to net 40 since Keith Tkachuk in 1997-98 – five years before Guenther was even born, for those scoring at home. "I was eyeing it down the stretch; I won't lie," he said. "I had like 25 or 26 goals at the break and was playing well, and I have a mental coach, and we were just talking and setting goals, and I said, 'I want to hit 40. I gotta get hot here.' My previous career-high was 27, so I still wanted to hit that and get that out of the way. But I stuck to it."

TWINE TICKLER
Guenther became the first Mammoth player to hit the 40-goal mark.

Ultimately, the milestone marker came with three games remaining in the Mammoth season. And while it did signify Guenther arriving as one of the NHL's elite goal-scoring threats, it also saw the 23-year-old deliver on expectations.

In one sense, those expectations were born out of the yearly pre-season prognostication that Guenther would be among the NHL's breakout scorers. That was true when he was named as a potential surprise rookie after he made the Coyotes out of camp in 2022-23. It was true again when he got called up from the AHL during the 2023-24 campaign. And it was truer yet after the franchise closed up shop in Arizona and opened anew in Utah in 2024-25.

But the expectations were also part and parcel with the mega-millions contract Guenther signed in September 2024. At the time he put pen to paper, Guenther was 21 with just 78 NHL games under his belt and was only some eight months removed from playing down on the farm. Yet the Mammoth – then known as the far-more nondescript Utah Hockey Club – ponied up a max-term deal worth north of $57.1 million to lock

TOP-LEFT: SIMON FEARN-IMAGN IMAGES; BOTTOM-MIDDLE: ROB GRAY-IMAGN IMAGES

Guenther up for the next eight seasons.

In the eyes of some, the pact, especially given Guenther's then-limited CV, was a calculated risk and a source of pressure for Guenther to live up to his cap hit. Both then and now, Guenther saw it otherwise. "I felt like I earned it, honestly, even though I hadn't played that much," he said. "I was confident in my abilities and my teammates would allow me to be the player I am and instill confidence in me. Our leaders are super good. At a young age, it can be intimidating coming into a dressing room and stuff, but the leadership was great, allowing guys to be themselves and giving you the freedom to do the things that you're good at – coaching staff, management and the players, too. So there wasn't a ton of pressure at all."

If anything, Guenther added, that management was not just willing but excited about committing to him as a franchise cornerstone worked in his favor. It boosted his confidence and made him hungry to deliver. The relationships and bonds he's built with the organization, first in Arizona and now in Utah, have helped him do exactly that. Notably, he points to longtime Coyotes and now-Mammoth teammates Lawson Crouse and Clayton Keller as two people who've driven him to be the best version of himself.

That best version, and the version upon which Guenther hopes to continue to build, is one who has evolved away from the puck by becoming a more fiery forechecker with a better stick in the defensive zone. That's evident in the way he threw his weight around last season. Though modest, he was more physical on a per-game hit rate than in any of his prior NHL campaigns.

And his continued development has also seen Guenther begin to manufacture an identity – and not as the archetypical triggerman. Instead, Guenther sees himself as a player with pace who thrives on give-and-go hockey, keeping the puck alive in the offensive zone and with a willingness to do less-glamorous goal-scoring work. "This year, I tried to get to the net a little bit more and tried to get inside a bit more," he said. "And even if I didn't score that shift or that time, it would open up other space for me. When you look at the best goal-scorers in the league, they're super diverse, and they score in different ways. That's something I have to do, too."

> **"WE'VE TAKEN STEPS, AND IT'S IMPORTANT TO KEEP DOING THAT**
>
> -DYLAN GUENTHER

If he can build on his true breakout campaign, the Mammoth are bound to benefit in a big way, as has already been apparent. In a season in which Utah took a step toward legitimacy as an up-and-coming force in the Western Conference, Guenther's emergence as a full-fledged first-rate scorer was an undercurrent. And him continuing on this trajectory can only serve to take the Mammoth to greater heights.

Utah took the eventual Western Conference-champion Vegas Golden Knights to within two sudden-death goals of elimination, and the additions of Vincent Trocheck and Anders Lee, not to mention bringing MacKenzie Weegar aboard at last season's trade deadline, are a statement of intent. But in Guenther's mind, when it comes to his personal game and the club as a whole, the message has to be the same: don't be satisfied. "We've taken steps, and it's important to keep doing that," he said. "Nothing is given in this league. Sixteen teams made the playoffs in 2025, and only nine made it again in 2026. Florida didn't even make it. They had a couple of injuries, but nothing is given, so it's important for us not to be complacent. Just remember how much work and how hard it was to get there. That's something important."

BOTTOM-RIGHT: TERRENCE LEE-IMAGN IMAGES

NSH

RYAN O'REILLY

#90 • F • NASHVILLE PREDATORS

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A KID AT HEART

RYAN O'REILLY'S YOUTHFUL EXUBERANCE SHINES BOTH ON AND OFF THE ICE. AND WITH THE NASHVILLE PREDATORS CENTER PLAYING ARGUABLY HIS BEST HOCKEY, HIS PERSONA AND GUIDANCE WILL BE KEY IN TRYING TO GET HIS TEAM BACK TO THE PLAYOFFS BY CAROL SCHRAM

WHEN BARRY TROTZ succeeded David Poile as GM of the Nashville Predators on July 1, 2023, he followed a traditional strategy by promptly shoring up the roster down the middle.

On Day 1 of free agency, Trotz signed steadfast veteran center Ryan O'Reilly to a four-year, $18-million contract. At 32, the former St. Louis Blues captain already had a Stanley Cup, a Conn Smythe, a Selke and a Lady Byng on his resume. Known for his leadership and acquired by the Toronto Maple Leafs for a major package – which included a first-round pick – less than five months earlier, O'Reilly showed his commitment to his new club by taking a significant haircut from his previous $7.5-million AAV as the flat-cap era dragged toward its merciful conclusion.

That's just one example of the team-first approach that has fuelled a successful 17-year career. "He's such an amazing leader," said Nashville captain Roman Josi. "He's very vocal in the room and just an amazing teammate. He's a great guy to have around."

O'Reilly's decision to join the Predators was sparked by the potential he saw on the roster and the arrival of Trotz's new hand-picked coach, Andrew Brunette. The perks of living in Music City were also a draw for the longtime guitar player and singer, who has built strong relationships over the years with some of the biggest names in the industry.

By Year 3 in Nashville, O'Reilly's side hustle with his junior-hockey teammate Kelly James was fully formed and ready to be shared with the public.

Their children's duo, Mac N Cheeze, recorded a 14-song debut album in the Nashville home studio of Oshawa native Chris Kimmerer, the drummer for country star Thomas Rhett. In April, "Pizza Party" was released on both sides of the border by Dine Alone Records.

LEFT: JEROME MIRON-IMAGN IMAGES; RIGHT: SERGEI BELSKI-IMAGN IMAGES

Months earlier, the eponymous lead-off single had become a viral earworm in the Predators' dressing room, blasted as the team's win song beginning at the Global Series in Stockholm last November, fittingly, in an arena named after the late superstar DJ Tim 'Avicii' Bergling.

Now a father of four, O'Reilly has seen his hobby mirror a youthful resurgence at his day job. Last season, his 74 points put him just one behind Filip Forsberg for Nashville's team-scoring lead. That's just three fewer points than his career-high of 77 with the Blues in 2018-19, the year he hoisted the Stanley Cup and was handed the Conn Smythe as playoff MVP. That's not bad for a 35-year-old who's supposed to be on the back nine of his career.

Originally drafted in the second round in 2009 by the Colorado Avalanche, O'Reilly ranks second only to John Tavares among his draft class with 1,233 career NHL games. He's also third in his class with 898 points (behind Tavares and Matt Duchene), and his value to his team extends well beyond the scoresheet. "O'Reilly's playing like he's a No. 1 center," Josi said. "He kind of does everything for us. He's on the PK, and he's on the power play. He plays every situation."

Skating 20:24 a night last season, O'Reilly led his team's forwards in ice time while Nashville pushed for a return to the playoffs (the team ultimately fell four points short). And despite that heavy in-season workload, he answered Canada's call for the 2026 World Championship in Switzerland at season's end, a usual occurrence when he doesn't have a playoff commitment.

FILIP FORSBERG & RYAN O'REILLY

> "HE'S VERY VOCAL IN THE ROOM AND JUST AN AMAZING TEAMMATE. HE'S A GREAT GUY TO HAVE AROUND
>
> -ROMAN JOSI ON RYAN O'REILLY

TOP: STEVE ROBERTS-IMAGN IMAGES; BOTTOM: BOB FRID-IMAGN IMAGES

O'Reilly will never challenge Swiss right winger Andres Ambuhl's all-time record of 20 World Championships, but 2026 marked the eighth time he has suited up for his country, tying him with 'Captain Canada' Ryan Smyth. With two World Championship gold medals and a silver to accompany his NHL hardware, O'Reilly is now Team Canada's leader in games played at the worlds (73).

This year, the Canadians came home empty-handed after an overtime loss to Norway in the bronze medal game. Wearing an 'A' in support of first-time captain Macklin Celebrini, O'Reilly had nine points to finish third in team scoring and move into second place all-time for Team Canada at the worlds with 52 points – only 10 behind Dany Heatley (62 points in 52 games).

Never wanting to be far from a guitar, O'Reilly has also made a habit of sourcing a new axe from a local music store each time he heads overseas, accomplishing the dual objective of collecting a meaningful souvenir and simplifying travel by only transporting the instruments in one direction.

Longtime NHL D-man Tyson Barrie came into the league in Colorado around the same time as O'Reilly. When O'Reilly was feted for his 1,000th game in Nashville in November of 2023, Barrie warned that his heart-and-soul teammate wouldn't be swapping his trademark youthful exuberance for the retirement home anytime soon. "He'll play until the wheels fall off," Barrie said. "They're going to have to kick him out of the league. He'll play until he's got nothing left." H

MTL

MARTIN ST-LOUIS

HEAD COACH • MONTREAL CANADIENS

MTL

LEFT: MATT BLEWETT-USA TODAY SPORTS; RIGHT: JAMES GUILLORY-IMAGN IMAGES

NOTHING IS EVERYTHING

WHEN MONTREAL CANADIENS COACH MARTIN ST-LOUIS WANTS TO UNWIND, HE TURNS TO HIS FAVORITE TV SHOW, *SEINFELD* – A SHOW ABOUT NOTHING. AND IN TAKING A SIMILAR STANCE BEHIND THE BENCH, HE'S HELPED ELEVATE THE CANADIENS TO LEGITIMATE-CONTENDER STATUS

BY MICHAEL TRAIKOS

IT WAS THE MORNING after an electric overtime win against the Tampa Bay Lightning in the first round of the playoffs when a bleary-eyed Martin St-Louis was asked how – or if – he managed to unwind and fall asleep after a stressful night behind the bench at the Bell Centre.

Did he enjoy a nightcap? Go out for a walk? Listen to some soothing music?

Turns out, the Montreal Canadiens coach did nothing. Or rather, he binge-watched a show about nothing. "*Seinfeld* is the show that can let me disconnect from everything," he said, adding he's watched the entire series at least four times over. "It's a show about nothing. So you can just think about nothing. And you don't even have to actually watch it. You can just listen to it because you know the characters, and so it's easy to fall asleep. For me, *Seinfeld* makes me disconnect."

When asked for a favorite *Seinfeld* character, St-Louis said he connected with the anxiety-ridden George Costanza, which makes sense for a coach who tends to overthink and overanalyze every decision he makes. In a show about nothing, George worries about everything.

So, too, does St-Louis. Mostly, however, he worries about his players.

After a Kirby Dach mistake on an icing led to an overtime loss in Game 2 against Tampa

Bay, Habs fans were calling for St-Louis to remove Dach from the lineup. St-Louis might have thought of doing the same. But then he saw what some were saying about Dach on social media – and how it was affecting not only Dach but also his teammates.

So, instead of benching the beleaguered center, he made an emotional plea to reporters and fans to take it easy on Dach, saying, "It was only one play." The following game, the crowd serenaded Dach with cheers as the Canadiens took the ice, and Dach responded by collecting a goal and an assist in a 3-2 overtime win. Once he got back to the bench, he celebrated with an embrace from St-Louis. "He's a phenomenal coach and a great person," Dach said. "He can level with you on a personal level and can understand what you as a player are going through. He's also able to find ways to get the best out of each and every one of us in individual ways and also as a team collectively. I'm definitely thankful to have Marty as a coach."

Dach is not alone. St-Louis has only been an NHL coach for four full years, but the 2004 Hart Trophy winner has a fan club that stretches beyond Montreal. When Phillip Danault told his agent back in December that he would welcome a trade out of Los Angeles, he chose to come to Montreal in part because he "adored Marty St-Louis."

And what's not to like? While there may have been critics who wondered how the Hall of Fame right winger would transition to coaching in the NHL when the Canadiens first hired him as an interim coach in February 2022 – particularly since his previous experience was coaching his sons' youth-hockey teams – he has won over detractors with a style that blurs the line between coach and captain.

Indeed, a day after the Canadiens' playoff run ended, St-Louis joined Nick Suzuki, Cole Caufield and others at a Luke Combs concert at Parc Jean-Drapeau, where St-Louis looked more like the grizzled veteran on the team – not the boss. "He's our leader, and everyone will do anything for him," Suzuki said. "He's a hell of a coach. He's only been doing this for a short period of time, so I can imagine he's going to continue to get better. He loves what he does, and we love playing for him."

That love affair does not appear to be ending anytime soon. Two seasons ago, St-Louis was a finalist for the Jack Adams Award after leading the Canadiens to an unlikely playoff berth. Last season, the team took an even bigger step, finishing third in the Atlantic Division and knocking off the Lightning and the Buffalo Sabres to reach the Eastern Conference final.

Along the way, the Canadiens enjoyed career years from just about everyone.

Suzuki won the Selke Trophy as the league's top defensive forward after scoring 101 points. Caufield was a runner-up for the Rocket Richard Trophy after scoring 51 goals. Lane Hutson finished fourth among defensemen in scoring with 78 points. Ivan Demidov led all rookies with 62 points. And Juraj Slafkovsky, who had a breakout season with 30 goals and 73 points, finally justified his selection as the 2022 first-overall pick.

It was also a year in which Jakub Dobes went from unknown backup to getting comparisons to Carey Price, all because St-Louis believed in him and gave him the net – and then refused to take it back. "That's a big part – to have the trust of your coach," Dobes said after St-Louis refused to pull him in a pivotal Game 5 against the Sabres.

After all, the obvious thing would have been to do something. St-Louis, taking a cue from his favorite TV show, did nothing. H

"HE'S A PHENOMENAL COACH AND A GREAT PERSON. HE CAN LEVEL WITH YOU ON A PERSONAL LEVEL AND CAN UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU AS A PLAYER ARE GOING THROUGH
- KIRBY DACH ON MARTIN ST-LOUIS

TOP: JAMES GUILLORY-IMAGN IMAGES; BOTTOM: DAVID KIROUAC-IMAGN IMAGES

GRATITUDE & GOALS

UNDRAFTED. UNDERVALUED. UNSIGNED. THE YEARS OF UNCERTAINTY MORGAN GEEKIE EXPERIENCED MAKE HIM APPRECIATE WHERE HE STANDS TODAY. AND THE OPPORTUNITIES HE'S BEEN GIVEN IN BOSTON HAVE HELPED HIM BECOME ONE OF THE NHL'S MOST DANGEROUS TRIGGERMEN

BY JARED CLINTON

THE FIRST TIME A composite stick appeared in an NHL game, Morgan Geekie couldn't tell a hockey puck from a hole in the ground.

It was during the 1999-00 campaign, when Geekie was still a baby boy, that New Jersey Devils rookie Scott Gomez introduced the league to the Easton Synergy. He turned out to be a trendsetter. In short order, one-piece sticks became ubiquitous. More than 100 players in the bigs were using composite sticks by the end of 2000-01. And over the next several years, everyone from professional talents to beer-league benders had embraced the new weapons. The flex, the whip and the resulting shots had turned the hockey-stick game on its head.

By the time Geekie was up and on skates, taking his first strides and shooting his first pucks, the one-piece revolution was in effect. The old timber twigs had become outmoded – but not for Geekie. No, if the state-of-the-art sticks were the sports car to their wooden counterparts' horse and buggy, Geekie was left wielding the equivalent of a stagecoach – and not exactly by choice.

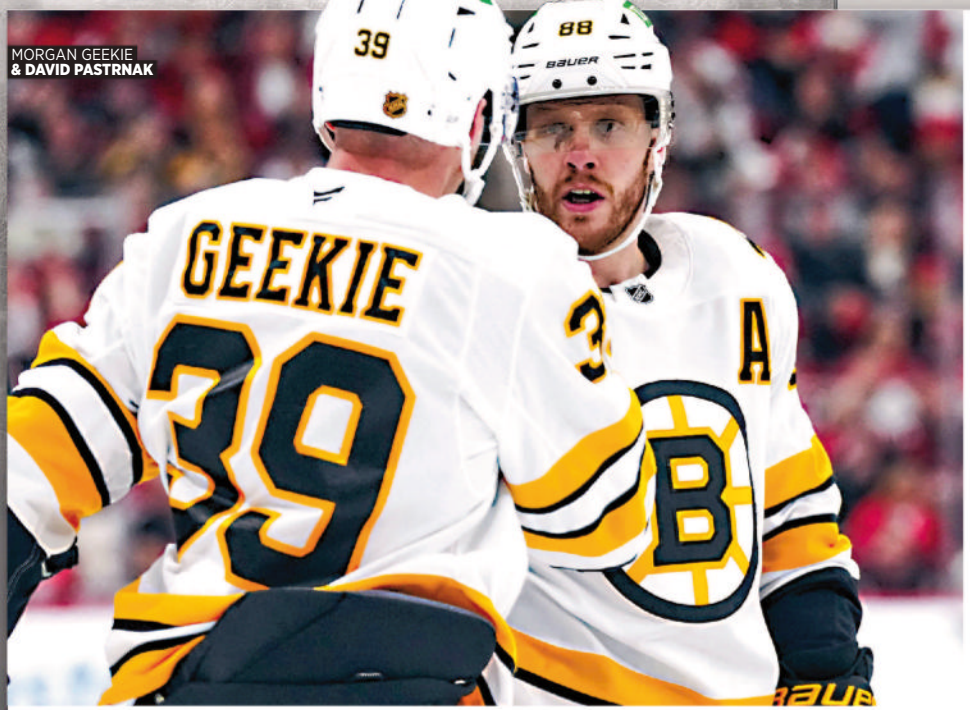
The way Geekie tells it, part of the reason his sticks were more ancient artifacts than cutting-edge technology was that his dad, former WHL blueliner Craig Geekie, wanted him to learn old-school fundamentals instead of relying on new-school mechanisms. There was also, in all honesty, the matter of convenience. When Morgan was still stumbling around on skates, Craig was playing senior hockey in rural Manitoba alongside former NHLer Pat Falloon. And when Falloon – a righty, like Morgan – would discard his old sticks, Craig – a lefty – was more than happy to snap them up, saw them down and pass them on to his son.

It stayed that way, too, well into Geekie's youth playing days. It wasn't until he was 14 and enrolled in elite-level youth hockey that Geekie joined the composite community. If he had gear envy at the time, though, he's no longer sour about his dad forcing him to use an old-school implement. "I am forever grateful for it – just because my shot wouldn't be where it is," he said. "Everybody is a smart enough player to figure it out, but he instilled that in me right away: the foundation is what you can grow off of, and he did a great job of doing that. That's where most dads get it. It worked for them, so they assume it'll work for their kids. Luckily enough for me, it worked out."

TOP: SERGEI BELSKI-IMAGN IMAGES; BOTTOM RIGHT: WINSLOW TOWNSON-IMAGN IMAGES; BOTTOM LEFT: ERIC BOLTE-IMAGN IMAGES

MORGAN GEEKIE

#39 • F • BOSTON BRUINS


MORGAN GEEKIE & DAVID PASTRNAK

Worked out? That's one way to put it, though those in the goaltending profession might not agree. Over the past two seasons, the 28-year-old has proven that his shot, once considered an asset, is not only a lethal weapon but a threat to the health and safety of masked men league-wide.

For much of 2025-26, for instance, Geekie had the NHL's chart-topping blast: a 103-plus mile-per-hour rocket during a November contest against the Toronto Maple Leafs. (He eventually ceded top spot to Ottawa Senators defenseman Tyler Kleven, whose 103.51 mile-per-hour missile eventually landed him the title of NHL's master blaster.) Geekie's remained the hardest shot by any forward during the campaign, and he was the only forward to reach triple digits on the radar twice. He was also one of just three forwards to clock in above 90 miles per hour with more than 20 shots.

It's one thing for Geekie to obliterate pucks, of course. It's another altogether for those pucks to find twine. And even if neither of Geekie's triple-digit blasts managed to beat opposing keepers, his puck-propelling power has turned into one of his greatest strengths since he arrived in Boston.

In each successive season since signing with the Bruins in 2023, Geekie has set a new career-high goal total. That began with a 17-goal surge in his debut campaign in Beantown, a hair short of double his previous career-best mark of nine set the season prior. He followed that by hitting the 30-goal plateau in consecutive seasons, reaching 33 tallies in 2024-25 and 39 in 2025-26. To put his exploits into context, Geekie is keeping pace with the likes of Connor McDavid, David Pastrnak, Pavel Dorofeyev and Filip Forsberg as a top-20 goal-scorer over the past two seasons.

To say these heights are unexpected at this stage of Geekie's career is an understatement – and also true in more ways than one.

It was a decade ago the Strathclair, Man., native was passed over in his first year of draft eligibility in 2016. Even when the 2017 draft rolled around, he hadn't elevated his stock to the status of high-end prospect. Instead, he was viewed as a third-round talent – coincidentally exactly where he was selected, 67th overall by the Carolina Hurricanes. From there, Geekie's path was no more straightforward: another year in the WHL, one in the AHL and then two campaigns splitting time between AHL Charlotte and the big club in Raleigh before being snapped up in the 2021 expansion draft by the Seattle Kraken.

> "WHEN YOU PLAY WITH A PLAYER OF THAT CALIBER, YOU TRY TO FIGURE OUT WHERE HE LIKES TO HANG OUT
>
> -MORGAN GEEKIE ON PLAYING WITH DAVID PASTRNAK

But after two unremarkable seasons in Seattle, Geekie was left without a qualifying offer in the summer of 2023, making him an unrestricted free agent – albeit not for long. The day free agency opened, Geekie signed a two-year, $4-million deal with the Bruins. "It just seemed very unorthodox how I end-

TOP: JAMES GUILLORY-IMAGN IMAGES; BOTTOM: BRIAN FLUHARTY-IMAGN IMAGES

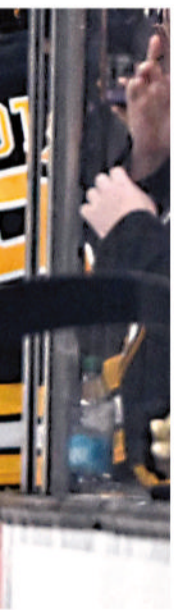
ed up in free agency, and it kind of caught me by surprise," he said. "So my agent talked to a few teams on that day, and that was right after (Boston) had its best regular season of all-time. They had a few guys who were not sure if they were on their way out or stuff like that, so I went there wanting to be a part of that group that they had, regardless of what role I played."

That role has steadily transformed. In his first season, he was in the middle of the lineup, primarily playing alongside the likes of Trent Frederic and James van Riemsdyk. By the next campaign, Geekie found himself on a line with Pastrnak on the opposite wing and with Pavel Zacha down the middle. And last season, Geekie continued to build on his chemistry with Pastrnak, primarily with Elias Lindholm as his center.

ALEXANDRE TEXIER & MORGAN GEEKIE

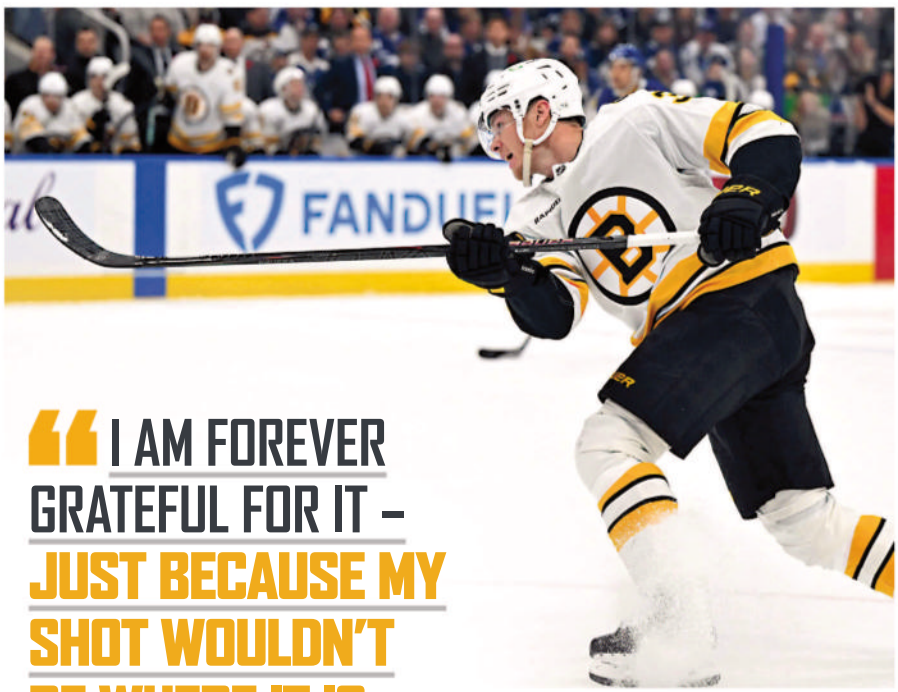
It's the relationship he's built with Pastrnak, on and off the ice, that has been most transformative. The most important lesson Geekie learned from Pastrnak, one of the NHL's elite goal-scorers, is to play more east-west than north-south. ("I'm sure all coaches dislike that I'm saying that," he laughed.) That's meant looking for more cross-ice passing lanes and using the width of the ice to get goaltenders, and the defenders in front of them, moving side-to-side.

And if we can tweak an old artistic axiom, if good goal-scorers borrow, great goal-scorers steal. Geekie has done plenty of the latter from Pastrnak. "When you play with a player of that caliber, you try to figure out where he likes to hang out. And I was lucky for a little while to be on the receiving end of a lot of those plays by him," Geekie said. "So I'm trying to figure out where he likes to be, and I feel like if I can put myself in spots that he enjoys hanging out in, it works out well when roles are reversed."



TOP: DAVID KIROUAC-IMAGN IMAGES; BOTTOM: DAN HAMILTON-IMAGN IMAGES

That Geekie has arrived at top-line-winger status is arguably the most unexpected development in his journey. Reflecting on signing a six-year, $33-million extension last year, he says that he never saw himself as someone who had the opportunity to stick around anywhere, adding that he was "a little underdeveloped or not really sure what kind of role he wants to play or what player he is." He's now carved out his niche, and it's one of triggerman.



> **"I AM FOREVER GRATEFUL FOR IT – JUST BECAUSE MY SHOT WOULDN'T BE WHERE IT IS**
>
> -MORGAN GEEKIE ON USING WOODEN STICKS GROWING UP

Having taken a circuitous route to fulfilling, or even exceeding, his potential gives Geekie a different perspective than many big-league snipers. There's a humility to him and maybe even a slight disbelief – not in his own ability but in the fact that this is where he's ended up. "I've been fortunate enough over the past couple of years to be able to be in the position to score goals, be on the power play and play with some world-class players," he said. "It's still something that I love to have in my toolkit – being able to be placed up and down the lineup, wherever that may be, and just impact the game in whatever way the coaches see fit. It's an ever-evolving kind of thing. I wish I could tell you that this is the final form, but everybody is growing in this league every day."

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INSTANT RESPONSE

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ONE-PIECE CONSTRUCTION creates an unrivalled connection between player and skate.

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SVH SKATE FACTORY

Former Canadian national team speed skater Scott Van Horne refused to accept that sore feet and poorly performing skates were simply part of hockey. With a master's degree in biomechanics, he knew the problem wasn't the players – it was the outdated way skates were built. Why were athletes still lacing into skates designed like work boots from a century ago when every other part of the game had evolved? Scott believed there had to be a better way. Years of research, testing and relentless refinement led him to a breakthrough: a revolutionary one-piece design that wraps the foot seamlessly, eliminating the gaps, pressure points and wasted energy of traditional skates. Instead of fighting your equipment, your stride flows naturally. Instead of losing power, every ounce of energy is transferred to the ice.

The result is a skate that feels like an extension of your foot — light, responsive and built to perform at the speed of today's game. No distractions, no compromises – just confidence in every movement.

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The CATALYST NITRO skate is where that one-piece breakthrough meets its fastest form yet. Every element exists for one reason: to turn effort into acceleration. Nothing is wasted between you and the ice.

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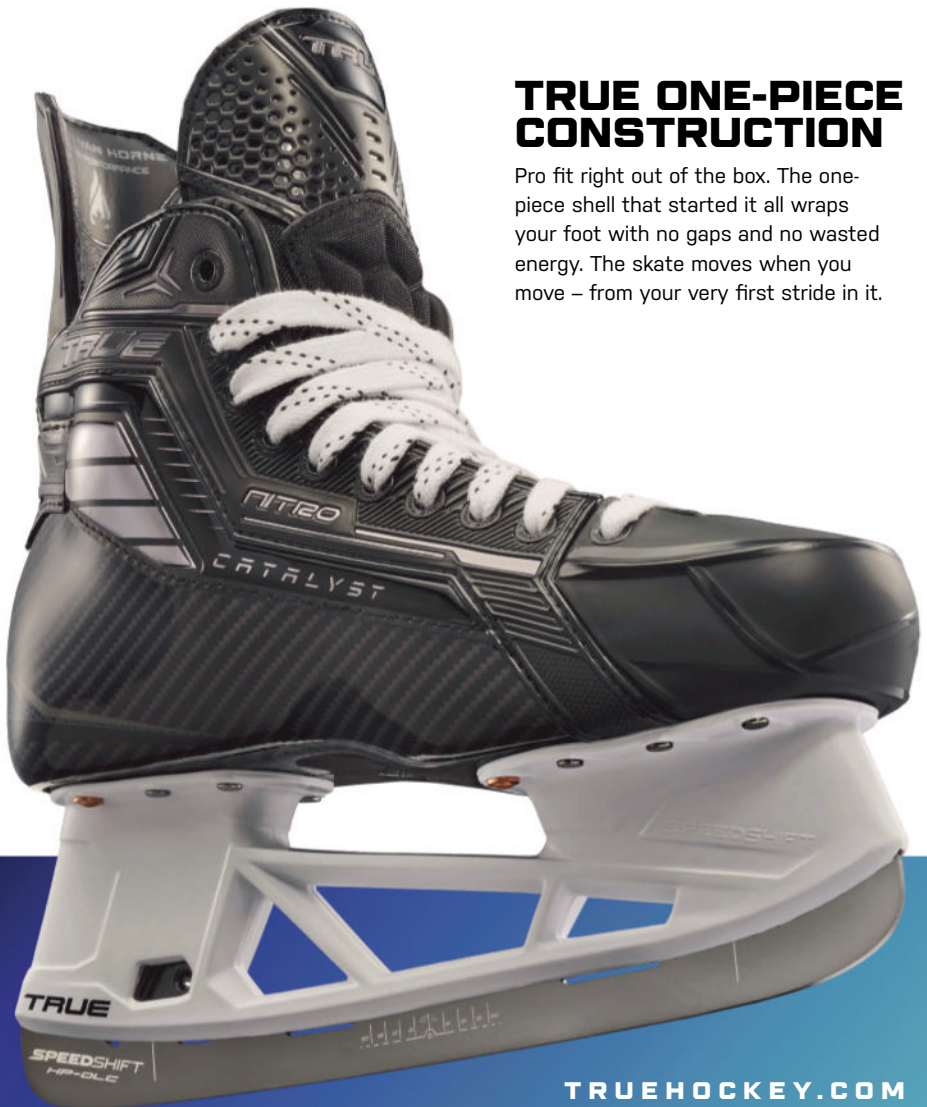

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SMARTFLEX AI

The stick that adapts to you. SMARTFLEX AI tunes the flex to your hands – wherever they are and however you shoot – so you get the right kick point on every release – from in-tight snaps to blasts from the point.

BALANCED WEIGHT PROFILE

Balanced to disappear in your hands. At just 365 g, the weight sits exactly where it should — a balanced feel that gives you ultimate control on every touch and shift.

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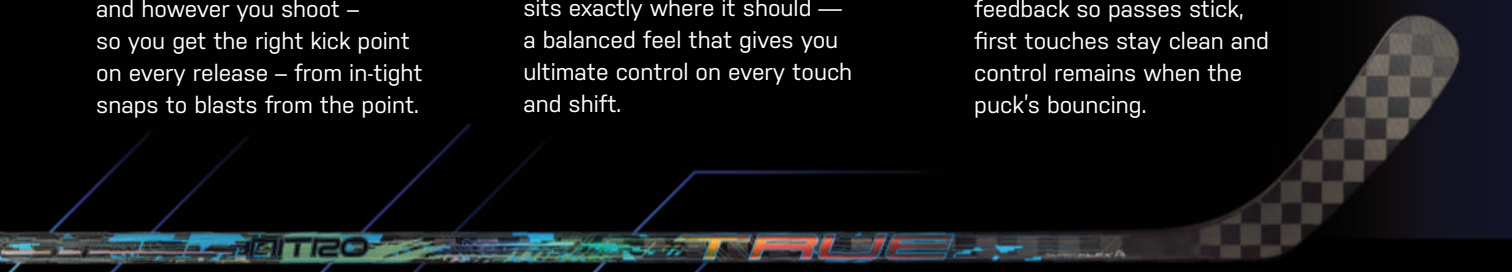
Feel everything except the vibration. SRT-D's dampening layer absorbs harsh feedback so passes stick, first touches stay clean and control remains when the puck's bouncing.



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NHL TEAM REPORTS

Certainty Amidst Chaos

Predicting how most NHL teams will do is a tall task. But with the powerhouse Avalanche icing a similar team to last year, it's easy to see them winning it all BY JARED CLINTON

REWIND THE TAPE, listen closely and you can hear the monkey's paw begin to curl.

When we deemed the Avalanche our Stanley Cup favorite in our 2026 Playoff Preview edition, the heart of our argument was that the front office had, for the first time since 2022, built a supporting cast around Nathan MacKinnon and Cale Makar capable of propelling Colorado back to the NHL's mountaintop. This group was better, deeper and less reliant on its stars. It wasn't about Makar and MacKinnon – but the bigger picture.

Leave it to the hockey gods, then, to have an all-too-literal interpretation of our prediction.

In the second round, Colorado dismantled the Minnesota Wild but lost Makar. In the third round, Makar returned just in time for MacKinnon to fall injured and return to action a shell of himself. Together, the injuries derailed an already-faltering post-season push. The Avalanche were swept out of the Western Conference final, with Colorado's heralded depth not enough to stave off the eventual runner-up Vegas Golden Knights.

The truth, however, is that the Avalanche's failure speaks less to their own frailties than to the randomness of sport. No team can legislate for ill-timed injuries. The best any club can do is safeguard against potential pitfalls. And that's why when we considered the makeup of top title challengers, it was difficult to arrive at any conclusion other than the Avalanche as the 2026-27 Cup favorite.

Yes, that still has much to do with MacKinnon and Makar, arguably the single-best active players at their respective positions. But at risk of angering divine forces, we must again assert that while Colorado's path to glory will be powered by the superstar pair, the road will be paved by the depth the Avalanche have assembled.

Even if they didn't lead to

BOB FRID-IMAGN IMAGES

the grand prize, each of last season's key additions – Nazem Kadri and Nicolas Roy in particular – came with a level of contingency. The years remaining on those deals, and retention on Kadri's contract, have allowed the Avalanche to run it back with a similar group. The same can be said of blueliner Brett Kulak, who inked a five-year extension to remain in Colorado. Not content with standing pat, either, Joe Sakic – back in the GM seat after Chris MacFarland bolted for the Nashville Predators – added veteran center Jaden Schwartz and bolstered Colorado's bottom six with trade acquisitions Fedor Svechkov and Zachary L'Heureux.

Considering Colorado's strength last season, even those marginal improvements should concern the rest of the NHL. The Avs finished 2025-26 with the highest shots-per-game and fifth-lowest shots-allowed-per-game totals. While Colorado's power play was confounding, the Avalanche boasted the league's best penalty kill. And all of this was underscored by the William M. Jennings Trophy-winning goaltending tandem of Scott Wedgewood and Mackenzie Blackwood. At worst, there are pinholes in the lineup.

But as much as staking the Avalanche is a vote of confidence, there's a level of de facto support given that uncertainty abounds across the league.

To wit, while we fancy MacKinnon and Co., where Colorado finishes in the Central Division is a coin toss, with the Wild and Dallas Stars sure to stay in lockstep for top spot. The wild-card margins are also razor thin in the Central – and perhaps even thinner throughout the entire Pacific. Last season, only nine points separated division-winning Vegas from fifth-place San Jose (which ended up winning the second-overall pick in the draft lottery). Expect another dogfight, as the Golden Knights, Sharks, Los Angeles Kings, Edmonton Oilers and Anaheim Ducks will all be bidding for home-ice advantage in the playoffs.

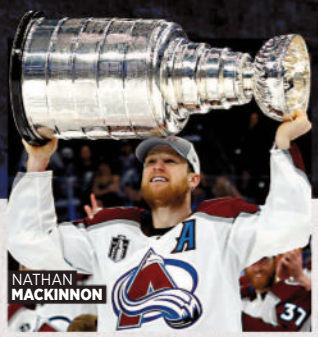
Out east, there's a corresponding blend of clarity and chaos. At the top of the heap, expect to see the Carolina Hurricanes, who are such a well-oiled machine that the Tin Man is turning green with envy. Anything less than a top-two finish in the Metropolitan Division would be shocking for the defending Cup champions, and now that coach Rod Brind'Amour's club has proven it can get the job done in the playoffs, the expectation is that Carolina will once again conquer the Eastern Conference.

However, don't expect the Canes to steamroll their way back to the final.

After narrowly missing the playoffs, the Washington Capitals made a splash this summer by acquiring Alex Tuch and Jordan Kyrou, and Calder candidate Cole Hutson is primed to make an impact. Meanwhile, a healthy, retooled Florida Panthers outfit – now with twice the Tkachuks – is destined to terrorize the Atlantic. Even if the Panthers don't return to the final, they will take not one but two pounds of flesh from whomever they come across.

Elsewhere, a rising spending limit and continued parity have turned an already-difficult forecasting process into a prognostication minefield. The spunky Montreal Canadiens are trending positively, but growth isn't always linear. The Tampa Bay Lightning remain a contender but one with little margin for error or injury. The Buffalo Sabres are riding high. The Boston Bruins are intriguing. The Pittsburgh Penguins are unexpectedly scrappy, and the Philadelphia Flyers are rejuvenated. But for each, replicating last season's success will be no easy feat. And what of the Toronto Maple Leafs? Gavin McKenna's arrival signals a new chapter, but Toronto was 21 points back of a wild-card berth in 2025-26. That's less gap than it is chasm.

Ultimately, then, it's perhaps that even a modicum of surety in uncertain times is enough to crown a Cup favorite. And of Colorado, one thing can be sure: when the regular season concludes and the playoff field has been whittled to its last handful, the Avalanche will be there. And this time – with a healthy MacKinnon and Makar – it's hard to see anyone standing in Colorado's way. H



The Hockey News

2026-27 PREDICTIONS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

1. Florida Panthers PG. 92
2. Montreal Canadiens PG. 104
3. Tampa Bay Lightning PG. 148
4. Toronto Maple Leafs* PG. 152
5. Buffalo Sabres* PG. 56
6. Ottawa Senators PG. 124
7. Boston Bruins PG. 52
8. Detroit Red Wings PG. 84

METRO DIVISION

1. Carolina Hurricanes PG. 64
2. Washington Capitals PG. 168
3. Philadelphia Flyers PG. 128
4. New Jersey Devils PG. 112
5. Pittsburgh Penguins PG. 132
6. New York Islanders PG. 116
7. Columbus Blue Jackets PG. 76
8. New York Rangers PG. 120

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

1. Colorado Avalanche PG. 72
2. Dallas Stars PG. 80
3. Minnesota Wild PG. 100
4. Utah Mammoth* PG. 156
5. Winnipeg Jets PG. 172
6. St. Louis Blues PG. 136
7. Nashville Predators PG. 108
8. Chicago Blackhawks PG. 68

PACIFIC DIVISION

1. Vegas Golden Knights PG. 164
2. Edmonton Oilers PG. 88
3. Anaheim Ducks PG. 48
4. San Jose Sharks* PG. 140
5. Los Angeles Kings PG. 96
6. Seattle Kraken PG. 144
7. Calgary Flames PG. 60
8. Vancouver Canucks PG. 160

*Wild-card playoff teams

STANLEY CUP PICK

Colorado defeats Carolina

MAKAR: SERGEI BELSKI-IMAGN IMAGES; MACKINNON: GEOFF BURKE-USA TODAY SPORTS

ANAHEIM DUCKS

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2025-26 NUMBERS

RECORD
43-33-6 (.561)

OVERTIME
9-6

SHOOTOUT
8-0

OVERALL
18th

OFFENSE
3.23 GPG (13th)

DEFENSE
3.51 GAA (29th)

POWER PLAY
18.6% (23rd)

PENALTY KILL
76.4% (27th)

EXPECTED GF/60
3.00 (3rd)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.91 (28th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
M. Granlund (19:10)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
J. LaCombe (24:15)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Joel Quenneville

GM
Pat Verbeek

CAPTAIN
Vacant

ARENA
Honda Center

CAPACITY
17,732

AHL AFFILIATE
San Diego Gulls

ECHL AFFILIATE
Tulsa Oilers

BY GREG BEACHAM

THE ANAHEIM DUCKS SOARED back to relevance last season, ending their seven-year playoff drought and stamping themselves as an exciting team on the rise while advancing to the second round.

The ensuing off-season was much less fun for their fans and GM Pat Verbeek. The Ducks were thrown into upheaval on July 3, when the Philadelphia Flyers signed 21-year-old Leo Carlsson to a five-year, $90-million offer sheet that makes him the NHL's highest-paid player this season. The deviously front-loaded deal is much more than Carlsson was expected to get as an RFA, and it exposed Verbeek's tactics as a hard-line negotiator in an embarrassing way. Carlsson's contract chews up much of the Ducks' salary-cap room, skews negotiations with their young talent and compromises their overall roster construction. Even before that monkey wrench, Verbeek was unable to improve his team. Anaheim's still-bright future looks a bit dimmer.

OFFENSE

The Ducks jumped to 13th in goals under coach Joel Quenneville after spending the previous half-decade in the NHL basement, and their top seven scorers are back. Carlsson and Cutter Gauthier are an enviable tandem. Beckett Sennecke returns along with Chris Kreider, Mikael Granlund and Troy Terry, who will miss the start of the season after hip surgery. Yet Verbeek's only significant addition was A.J. Greer, who far outscored his previous career bests

DAVID KIROUAC-IMAGN IMAGES

SERGEI BELSKI-IMAGN IMAGES

for Florida last year. Verbeek also shipped Mason McTavish to St. Louis for draft picks one year after he justified his trade of Trevor Zegras by claiming McTavish and Carlsson were his top two centers.

DEFENSE

Anaheim was not a good defensive team last season, ranking 29th in goals allowed per game. Quenneville likely doesn't have the roster to build a defensive powerhouse around top blueliner Jackson LaCombe and a few capable checking forwards, which means the team will have to score its way into the playoffs again. The Ducks' blueline also got worse this summer, with John Carlson, Radko Gudas, Jacob Trouba and Olen Zellweger all departing. Anaheim added Nick Jensen to a group that includes Pavel Mintyukov and Ian Moore, but any major defensive improvement will likely have to come from within. Fortunately, the Ducks have several compelling prospects, with Tristan Luneau getting a golden opportunity to fill the gaping holes on the right side.

GOALTENDING

Lukas Dostal didn't exactly take charge in his first season as Anaheim's unquestioned starter, posting a career-low .888 save percentage that declined to .870 in the playoffs. The other half of the Ducks' tandem is Ville Husso, who showed flashes of solid play after Petr Mrazek's season-ending hip surgery. Anaheim signed Laurent Brossoit for depth, but Dostal needs to take a step toward stardom, which will be a challenge behind this defense.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Neither unit was good last season, and special teams will be a priority for Quenneville this fall. The Ducks have the talent to build a special power play, but it never came together consistently, with Anaheim finishing 23rd in power-play percentage (18.6 percent). Mintyukov and Luneau will get chances to quarterback the second unit behind LaCombe. Anaheim's penalty-killers also struggled, ranking 27th in the regular season and flopping in the playoffs. Everything must get better.

INTANGIBLES

The Ducks made impressive strides in team chemistry last season under Quenneville. Anaheim's young core and newer veterans have meshed well, and the results were obvious on the ice. However, questions must be answered in training camp, as the Ducks don't have a captain. In addition, the departure of several key contributors will require a recalibration of relationships across the roster.

The Hockey News CUP ODDS 25/1

ROOKIES

A year after the Ducks drafted center Roger McQueen 10th overall, he looks like a future top-six power forward. It's probably too early for him to crack the NHL roster in camp, but that's what most people thought about Sennecke before he surpassed expectations and became a key player.

X-FACTOR

The Ducks are at a crossroads of identity, and their free-agent drama could affect their growth process. Will Carlsson harbor resentment from his treatment? Will the Ducks' leadership silently think less of him for his tactics? Will Verbeek's anachronistic mentality dissuade other free agents?

THE BRASS

Owner Henry Samueli has never pretended to be a hockey expert, and he steadfastly supports his chosen executives, but Verbeek's rocky summer and past missteps are obvious to everyone. Verbeek isn't in trouble now, but if this long-gestating rebuild stalls, he will face tough questions.

DEPTH CHART | 2026-27

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Cutter Gauthier	1. Leo Carlsson	1. Troy Terry
2. Chris Kreider	2. Mikael Granlund	2. Beckett Sennecke
3. Alex Killorn	3. Ryan Poehling	3. Frank Vatrano
4. A.J. Greer	4. Tim Washe	4. Sam Colangelo
5. Jeff Malott	5. Nikita Nesterenko	5. Nathan Gaucher

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Jackson LaCombe	6. Nick Jensen	1. Lukas Dostal
2. Pavel Mintyukov	7. Tristan Luneau	2. Ville Husso
3. Ian Moore	8. Travis Mitchell	3. Laurent Brossoit
4. Tyson Hinds	9. Corey Schueneman	INJURED
5. Drew Helleson	10. Stian Solberg	INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs John Carlson, D; Jacob Trouba, D; Mason McTavish, C; Olen Zellweger, D; Radko Gudas, D; Ross Johnston, LW; Petr Mrazek, G; Jeffrey Viel, LW; Jansen Harkins, C

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Roger McQueen
Pos C **Age** 19
2025-26 Providence (HE)
One-off NCAA season showcased development of overall game. He profiles as NHL setup man.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

2. Nikita Klepov
Pos RW **Age** 18
2025-26 Saginaw (OHL)
Shifty playmaker came, saw and conquered OHL. His defensive game puts him on fast track.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

3. Stian Solberg
Pos D **Age** 20
2025-26 San Diego (AHL)
He can contribute, but his snarl separates him from other defenders in the Ducks' system.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

4. Marcus Nordmark
Pos LW **Age** 18
2025-26 Djurgarden Jr. (Swe.)
Project winger with offensive tools set for new challenge after stellar Swedish junior season.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

5. Tristan Luneau
Pos D **Age** 22
2025-26 San Diego (AHL)
Ignore the stat decline. Full AHL campaign gave Luneau valuable reps to work on 'D' game.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

6. Jayden Kurtz
Pos D **Age** 18
2025-26 Rogers (USHS)
Right-shot defender has rare speed-and-size combo. Time in NCAA will aid his development.
Expected NHL Arrival '30-31

7. Mathis Preston
Pos RW **Age** 18
2025-26 Vancouver (WHL)
Modest WHL output despite good offensive skill set. Would benefit from less perimeter play.
Expected NHL Arrival '30-31

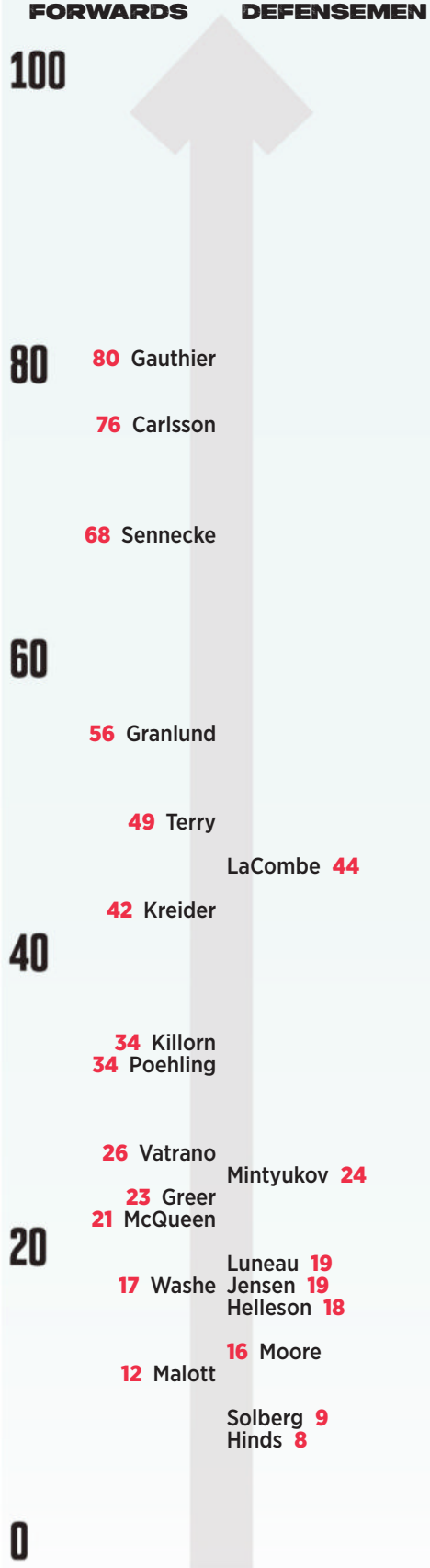
8. Eric Nilson
Pos C **Age** 19
2025-26 Michigan State (Big Ten)
Son of former NHLer Marcus projects as a two-way pivot with penalty-killing expertise.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

9. Anton Wahlberg
Pos C **Age** 21
2025-26 Rochester (AHL)
Consistent AHL growth and a change of scenery can open pathway for big playmaking center.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

10. Tarin Smith
Pos D **Age** 20
2025-26 Everett (WHL)
Talented puck distributor and smooth skater. Minnesota commit plays with heart and passion.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

POINTS-O-METER

2026-27 PROJECTIONS



SCHEDULE

Fri, Oct 2	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Sun, Oct 4	vs Florida	8:00 PM
Wed, Oct 7	vs Edmonton	10:00 PM
Fri, Oct 9	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Sat, Oct 10	@ Calgary	10:00 PM
Tue, Oct 13	vs Calgary	9:45 PM
Fri, Oct 16	vs Boston	10:00 PM
Mon, Oct 19	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 20	@ NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 22	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 24	@ Philadelphia	1:00 PM
Tue, Oct 27	vs Vancouver	10:00 PM
Thu, Oct 29	vs Buffalo	10:00 PM
Sun, Nov 1	vs Ottawa	8:00 PM
Tue, Nov 3	@ Vancouver	9:00 PM
Thu, Nov 5	@ Edmonton	8:00 PM
Fri, Nov 6	@ Calgary	8:00 PM
Sun, Nov 8	vs Pittsburgh	8:00 PM
Wed, Nov 11	vs Nashville	10:00 PM
Sat, Nov 14	vs NY Islanders	10:00 PM
Sun, Nov 15	vs Calgary	8:00 PM
Tue, Nov 17	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Thu, Nov 19	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Sat, Nov 21	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Mon, Nov 23	@ Seattle	9:40 PM
Wed, Nov 25	vs San Jose	9:30 PM
Fri, Nov 27	vs Los Angeles	4:00 PM
Sat, Nov 28	@ Los Angeles	9:00 PM
Tue, Dec 1	vs Minnesota	10:00 PM
Fri, Dec 4	vs Seattle	10:00 PM
Sun, Dec 6	vs Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Tue, Dec 8	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 10	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 12	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 13	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Wed, Dec 16	vs Vancouver	9:00 PM
Fri, Dec 18	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Sun, Dec 20	@ Edmonton	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 22	vs Vegas	10:00 PM
Sun, Dec 27	vs Colorado	8:00 PM
Tue, Dec 29	vs Toronto	10:00 PM
Fri, Jan 1	vs New Jersey	4:00 PM
Sun, Jan 3	vs Philadelphia	8:00 PM
Tue, Jan 5	vs Minnesota	10:00 PM
Fri, Jan 8	vs Dallas	10:00 PM
Sun, Jan 10	vs Washington	8:00 PM
Tue, Jan 12	vs NY Rangers	10:00 PM
Thu, Jan 14	vs St. Louis	10:00 PM
Sat, Jan 16	@ Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 19	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 21	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 23	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 24	@ Columbus	5:00 PM
Tue, Jan 26	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 28	vs Chicago	10:00 PM
Sat, Jan 30	vs Nashville	10:00 PM
Tue, Feb 9	vs Detroit	10:00 PM
Thu, Feb 11	vs Chicago	10:00 PM
Sat, Feb 13	@ Nashville	1:30 PM
Mon, Feb 15	@ Boston	12:30 PM
Tue, Feb 16	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 18	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 20	@ Florida	5:00 PM
Wed, Feb 24	vs Seattle	10:00 PM
Fri, Feb 26	@ Vegas	9:00 PM
Sat, Feb 27	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 1	@ Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Fri, Mar 5	vs Tampa Bay	10:00 PM
Sun, Mar 7	vs Columbus	8:00 PM
Wed, Mar 10	@ Dallas	9:30 PM
Sat, Mar 13	@ St. Louis	6:30 PM
Sun, Mar 14	@ Chicago	4:30 PM
Tue, Mar 16	vs Carolina	10:00 PM
Thu, Mar 18	vs Utah	10:00 PM
Sat, Mar 20	vs Vegas	10:30 PM
Mon, Mar 22	vs San Jose	10:00 PM
Wed, Mar 24	@ San Jose	10:00 PM
Thu, Mar 25	@ Seattle	9:40 PM
Sat, Mar 27	@ Vancouver	4:00 PM
Tue, Mar 30	vs Colorado	10:00 PM
Thu, Apr 1	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Sat, Apr 3	vs Edmonton	10:00 PM
Tue, Apr 6	vs Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Sat, Apr 10	@ San Jose	4:00 PM

BRIAN FOLEY/PROVIDENCE ATHLETICS

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

ANAHEIM DUCKS

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Laurent Brossoit	33	6-3	203	Left	Port Alberni, B.C.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Rockford/San Jose (AHL)	28	15-11-2	3.06	.901
Vyacheslav Buteyets	24	6-4	220	Left	Moscow, Rus.	178th overall (2022)	Tulsa (ECHL)	44	18-19-5	3.11	.908
Calle Clang	24	6-2	192	Left	Olofstrom, Swe.	Trade: Pit 3/21/22	San Diego (AHL)	36	18-9-7	2.80	.897
Damian Clara	21	6-6	214	Left	Brunico, Ita.	60th overall (2023)	Brynas (SHL)	33	17-15-0	2.52	.887
Lukas Dostal	26	6-2	190	Left	Brno, Cze.	85th overall (2018)	Anaheim	56	30-20-4	3.10	.888
Ville Husso	31	6-3	205	Left	Helsinki, Fin.	Trade: Det 2/24/25	Anaheim	20	10-8-2	3.25	884
Elijah Neuenschwander	19	6-4	192	Left	Biel-Bienne, Sui.	104th overall (2025)	Chur (Sui.2)	14	10-3-0	2.39	.913
Gleb Peshkov	18	6-3	212	Right	Kopeysk, Rus.	178th overall (2026)	Primorsky Krai Jr. (Rus.)	47	22-15-8	2.04	.930
Tomas Suchanek	23	6-1	185	Left	Prerov, Cze.	Free Agent: signed 3/21/24	San Diego (AHL)	15	5-7-3	3.31	.879

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Anthony Allain Samake	19	6-2	183	Left	Gatineau, Que.	168th overall (2025)	Connecticut (HE)	38	1	9	10	10
Lasse Boelius	19	6-1	181	Left	Lohja, Fin.	60th overall (2025)	Assat (Liiga)	40	1	7	8	8
Eric Frossard	18	6-6	206	Left	London, Ont.	146th overall (2026)	Guelph (OHL)	51	5	9	14	51
Drew Helleson	25	6-3	208	Right	Farmington, Minn.	Trade: Col 3/14/22	Anaheim	60	2	13	15	20
Tyson Hinds	23	6-3	201	Left	Gatineau, Que.	76th overall (2021)	San Diego (AHL)	62	5	14	19	21
Nick Jensen	36	6-0	202	Right	Rogers, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Ottawa	61	4	13	17	22
Jayden Kurtz	18	6-3	194	Right	Rogers, Minn.	45th overall (2026)	Rogers (USHS)	26	13	25	38	14
Jackson LaCombe	25	6-2	208	Left	Eden Prairie, Minn.	39th overall (2019)	Anaheim	82	10	48	58	19
Tristan Luneau	22	6-1	211	Right	Victoriaville, Que.	53rd overall (2022)	San Diego (AHL)	70	10	31	41	29
Alexis Mathieu	19	6-3	197	Left	Sherbrooke, Que.	136th overall (2025)	Baie-Comeau/Nfld. (QMJHL)	61	7	7	14	81
Pavel Mintyukov	22	6-1	207	Left	Moscow, Rus.	10th overall (2022)	Anaheim	73	8	14	22	17
Travis Mitchell	26	6-4	203	Left	South Lyon, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/26	Bridgeport (AHL)	58	1	16	17	87
Ian Moore	24	6-3	205	Right	Salt Lake City, Utah	67th overall (2020)	Anaheim	67	4	8	12	24
James Rieber	18	6-2	176	Right	Woodbury, Minn.	210th overall (2026)	Waterloo (USHL)	60	2	9	11	28
Drew Schock	19	6-0	178	Left	Chicago, Ill.	101st overall (2025)	Michigan (Big Ten)	38	1	9	10	22
Corey Schueneman	31	5-11	204	Left	Milford, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Springfield/Hershey (AHL)	71	6	25	31	27
Konnor Smith	21	6-6	234	Left	Windsor, Ont.	97th overall (2023)	Tulsa (ECHL)	38	8	1	9	33
Tarin Smith	20	6-1	189	Left	Porcupine Plain, Sask.	79th overall (2024)	Everett (WHL)	65	16	55	71	98
Stian Solberg	20	6-2	207	Left	Oslo, Nor.	23rd overall (2024)	San Diego (AHL)	71	12	12	24	102
Darels Uljanskis	20	6-2	194	Left	Riga, Lat.	214th overall (2024)	Flint (OHL)	42	8	18	26	16
Noah Warren	22	6-4	224	Right	Montreal, Que.	42nd overall (2022)	San Diego (AHL)	61	2	10	12	26
Jett Woo	26	6-0	205	Right	Winnipeg, Man.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Abbotsford/San Jose (AHL)	43	2	8	10	92

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Alexandre Blais	20	5-10	175	Left	Longueuil, Que.	100th overall (2024)	Connecticut (HE)	38	6	13	19	18
Leo Carlsson	21	6-3	208	Left	Karlstad, Swe.	2nd overall (2023)	Anaheim	70	29	38	67	33
Sean Farrell	24	5-9	182	Left	Milford, Mass.	Trade: Mtl 7/27/26	Laval (AHL)	72	17	36	53	20
Nathan Gaucher	22	6-3	226	Right	Chambly, Que.	22nd overall (2022)	San Diego (AHL)	62	15	14	29	47
Mikael Granlund	34	5-10	193	Left	Oulu, Fin.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Anaheim	58	19	22	41	18
Noah Kosick	18	6-0	160	Left	Kassel, Ger.	192nd overall (2026)	Swift Current/Seattle (WHL)	69	16	38	54	22
Kyle Kukkonen	23	5-10	172	Right	Maple Grove, Minn.	162nd overall (2021)	Wisconsin (Big Ten)	28	2	4	6	8
Roger McQueen	19	6-5	197	Right	Saskatoon, Sask.	10th overall (2025)	Providence (HE)	36	11	16	27	45
Nikita Nesterenko	25	6-2	203	Left	Brooklyn, N.Y.	Trade: Min 3/3/23	San Diego (AHL)	35	5	10	15	22
Eric Nilson	19	6-0	165	Right	Calgary, Alta.	45th overall (2025)	Michigan State (Big Ten)	35	3	8	11	41
Lucas Pettersson	20	5-11	168	Left	Ornskoldsvik, Swe.	35th overall (2024)	Brynas (SHL)	41	10	10	20	0
Ryan Poehling	27	6-2	206	Left	Lakeville, Minn.	Trade: Phi 6/23/25	Anaheim	75	11	25	36	12
Ethan Procyszyn	20	6-2	189	Right	Wasaga Beach, Ont.	68th overall (2024)	North Bay (OHL)	65	31	28	59	94
Noah Read	19	6-0	170	Left	St. Catharines, Ont.	72nd overall (2025)	London/Niagara (OHL)	60	11	11	22	45
Anton Wahlberg	21	6-4	205	Left	Malmo, Swe.	Trade: Buf 6/26/26	Rochester (AHL)	68	9	28	37	20
Tim Washe	25	6-3	212	Left	Detroit, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 4/14/25	Anaheim	39	2	3	5	14

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Artyom Galimov	27	6-0	176	Left	Samara, Rus.	129th overall (2020)	Kazan (KHL)	61	11	22	33	2
Cutter Gauthier	22	6-2	205	Left	Skelleftea, Swe.	Trade: Phi 1/8/24	Anaheim	76	41	28	69	28
A.J. Greer	29	6-3	224	Left	Joliette, Que.	Trade: Fla 6/29/26	Florida	78	17	15	32	113
Emile Guite	19	6-1	176	Left	Longueil, Que.	159th overall (2025)	Chicoutimi (QMJHL)	59	32	33	65	20
James Hamblin	27	5-10	185	Left	Edmonton, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Bakersfield (AHL)	64	27	14	41	32
Alex Killorn	37	6-1	205	Left	Halifax, N.S.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Anaheim	82	15	18	33	40
Chris Kreider	35	6-3	232	Left	Boxford, Mass.	Trade: NYR 6/12/25	Anaheim	75	22	28	50	34
Jeff Malott	30	6-5	215	Left	Burlington, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Los Angeles	58	3	6	9	55
Marcus Nordmark	18	6-2	180	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	28th overall (2026)	Djurgarden Jr. (Swe.)	25	14	24	38	48

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Austin Burnevik	21	6-4	195	Left	Ham Lake, Minn.	182nd overall (2024)	St. Cloud State (NCHC)	36	20	18	38	6
Michael Callow	22	6-4	181	Right	Boston, Mass.	154th overall (2022)	Harvard (ECAC)	16	3	4	7	8
Judd Caulfield	25	6-3	220	Right	Grand Forks, N.D.	Trade: Pit 3/31/23	San Diego (AHL)	71	17	21	38	14
Rian Chudzinski	18	6-1	191	Right	Cleveland, Ohio	82nd overall (2026)	Moncton (QMJHL)	54	21	17	38	71
Sam Colangelo	24	6-2	213	Right	Stoneham, Mass.	36th overall (2020)	San Diego (AHL)	49	12	24	36	25
Nikita Klepov	18	6-0	180	Left	Deerfield Beach, Fla.	15th overall (2026)	Saginaw (OHL)	67	37	60	97	43
Maxim Masse	20	6-1	195	Right	Rimouski, Que.	66th overall (2024)	Chicoutimi (QMJHL)	63	51	51	102	40
Nico Myatovic	21	6-2	203	Left	Prince George, B.C.	33rd overall (2023)	San Diego (AHL)	71	7	12	19	28
Coulson Pitre	21	6-1	185	Right	Newmarket, Ont.	65th overall (2023)	Tulsa (ECHL)	26	5	16	21	10
Mathis Preston	18	5-11	173	Right	Penticton, B.C.	50th overall (2026)	Spokane/Vancouver (WHL)	46	18	26	44	34
Beckett Sennecke	20	6-3	206	Right	Toronto, Ont.	3rd overall (2024)	Anaheim	82	23	37	60	62
Yegor Sidorov	22	6-0	184	Left	Vitebsk, Blr.	85th overall (2023)	San Diego (AHL)	68	15	14	29	36
Troy Terry	29	6-0	193	Right	Denver, Colo.	148th overall (2015)	Anaheim	61	19	38	57	14
Herman Traff	20	6-3	216	Right	Vaxjo, Swe.	Trade: NJ 3/6/25	Oskarshamn (Swe.2)	51	23	18	41	32
Brady Turko	19	5-11	168	Right	McCreary, Man.	200th overall (2025)	Brandon (WHL)	66	18	18	36	34
Frank Vatrano	32	5-11	203	Left	East Longmeadow, Mass.	Free Agent: signed 7/13/22	Anaheim	50	5	4	9	40

BOSTON BRUINS

2025-26 NUMBERS

RECORD
45-27-10 (.610)

OVERTIME
8-7

SHOOTOUT
4-3

OVERALL
8th

OFFENSE
3.27 GPG (10th)

DEFENSE
3.01 GAA (14th)

POWER PLAY
23.4% (9th)

PENALTY KILL
77.0% (24th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.56 (22nd)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.93 (30th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
D. Pastrnak (20:39)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
C. McAvoy (24:23)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Marco Sturm

GM
Don Sweeney

CAPTAIN
Vacant

ARENA
TD Garden

CAPACITY
17,850

AHL AFFILIATE
Providence Bruins

ECHL AFFILIATE
Maine Mariners

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BY MICK COLAGEO

WIDELY PREDICTED TO FINISH in the draft lottery, the reshaped Bruins went from the conference basement to 100 points under rookie coach Marco Sturm and returned to the playoffs. After his team fell in six games to Buffalo in the first round, GM Don Sweeney sought big-game fish on 'D' and more speed up front.

Reports had the Bruins close to acquiring Darnell Nurse, but they quietly brought in Will Borgen (via trade) and former Bruin Connor Clifton (in free agency). Boston's bigger news was the acquisition of right winger JJ Peterka from Utah for two first-round picks. The moves effectively replaced Viktor Arvidsson and Andrew Peeke. Having traded their way out of the first round of the 2026 draft, the Bruins used their second-round pick to select goaltender Yuri Ivanov. Off the ice, Patrice Bergeron was elected to the Hockey Hall of Fame and will have his No. 37 retired.

OFFENSE

David Pastrnak's fourth 100-point season puts him in historic company with Bobby Orr and Phil Esposito (six times each). Morgan Geekie led Boston with 39 goals, but his right shot went cold when moved to right wing. Elias Lindholm dealt with a nagging back injury, but the emergence of 22-year-old Fraser Minten as a two-way center could influence management's strategy in Pavel Zacha's contract year. The B's will be faster with Peterka and some combination of 2025 seventh-overall pick James Hagens

DAVID KIROUAC-IMAGN IMAGES

and Marat Khusnutdinov. Center Matthew Poitras has earned an extended look, and Charlie McAvoy led the blueline with 61 points. After 2021 first-rounder Fabian Lysell spent four seasons in the AHL, Sweeney sent him to Colorado for Ivan Ivan.

DEFENSE

Boston aspires to be a defense-first team, but with 268 goals last season, the Bruins ranked higher in offense (10th) than defense (14th). While lacking a point machine who drives Norris Trophy votes, the Bruins boast an all-purpose beast in McAvoy. Hampus Lindholm and Nikita Zadorov anchor the left side, but when Mason Lohrei struggled, Jonathan Aspirot became McAvoy's defensive partner. Solutions were more elusive on the right side after Henri Jokiharju's struggles with hybrid-man coverage landed him in Sturm's doghouse and Peeke hit a mid-winter wall. Sweeney brought in Borgen and Clifton to help. Zadorov will have to pare down his league-leading 152 PIM.

GOALTENDING

Jeremy Swayman's bounce-back season, one in which he collected 31 wins and was named a Vezina Trophy finalist, allowed the Bruins to promote Michael DiPietro and trade backup Joonas Korpisalo for a pick and a prospect. The net belongs to Swayman, who figures to be among the few constants on a roster that will be otherwise evolving over the next several years.

SPECIAL TEAMS

A healthy McAvoy and Lindholm guaranteed improvement for a power play that ranked 29th two years ago, and assistant Steve Spott added wrinkles to zone entries and points of attack, diverting coverage away from Pastrnak, who collected a team-high 23 PP assists. Hitting on 23.4 percent of its chances, Boston's PP finished ninth in the NHL. The playoffs were harder sledding, as the Bruins slumped to 12.5 percent. The Bruins took 372 penalties in the regular season and only killed 77 percent of opponents' power plays, which landed them the 24th-ranked penalty kill. But despite losing their first-round matchup, they held the Sabres to one PP goal on 24 opportunities.

INTANGIBLES

Throughout his roster retool, Sweeney has sought fleet-footed forwards to create anxiety on opponents' puck retrievals. But with Arvidsson's departure in free agency, the Bruins are looking for another top-six forward to hunt pucks the way Mark Kastelic and Tanner Jeannot do in their bottom six. Peterka will be an upgrade if he can get to the net, where the Bruins must win more battles to make the playoffs in a tougher Atlantic.

The Hockey News CUP ODDS 50/1

ROOKIES

Hagens left Boston College and began his pro career last season. He's one to watch. DiPietro will back up Swayman, and D-man Frederic Brunet is ready to make the jump. NCAA juniors Elliott Groenewold, Dean Letourneau and Christopher Pelosi could turn pro in the spring.

X-FACTOR

The future at forward depends on an emerging pool of NCAA prospects who will soon populate AHL Providence's roster. In the now, Sweeney wagered draft capital that Peterka will become the latest on his growing list of acquired underachievers to blossom in Boston.

THE BRASS

Sweeney supported Sturm's hiring of Matt McIlvane, but Evan Gold, Jamie Langenbrunner and Ryan Mougenel all left the organization to pursue other opportunities. Boston also hired former Sabres GM Kevyn Adams as senior advisor.

DEPTH CHART | 2026-27

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Morgan Geekie	1. Pavel Zacha	1. David Pastrnak
2. Marat Khusnutdinov	2. Fraser Minten	2. JJ Peterka
3. Tanner Jeannot	3. Elias Lindholm	3. James Hagens
4. Casey Mittelstadt	4. Sean Kuraly	4. Mark Kastelic
5. Lukas Reichel	5. Matthew Poitras	5. Alex Steeves

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Charlie McAvoy	6. Connor Clifton	1. Jeremy Swayman
2. Hampus Lindholm	7. Mason Lohrei	2. Michael DiPietro
3. Nikita Zadorov	8. Frederic Brunet	3. Simon Zajicek
4. Will Borgen	9. Henri Jokiharju	
5. Jonathan Aspirot	10. Jordan Harris	

INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Viktor Arvidsson, RW; Andrew Peeke, D; Joonas Korpisalo, G

BOB FRID-IMAGN IMAGES

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. James Hagens
Pos C **Age** 19
2025-26 Boston College (HE)
Physical growth led to NCAA improvement, and his NHL arrival gave Bruins late-season lift.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

2. Dean Letourneau
Pos C **Age** 20
2025-26 Boston College (HE)
Fears about 6-foot-7 pivot's college production were erased with 22-goal, 39-point output.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

3. Matthew Poitras
Pos C **Age** 22
2025-26 Providence (AHL)
Mercurial development curve isn't worrying yet. Bruins playing the long game with Poitras.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

4. Ivan Ivan
Pos C **Age** 24
2025-26 Colorado (AHL)
On the cusp of tweener territory, but a strong AHL post-season gave glimpses of upside.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

5. William Moore
Pos C **Age** 19
2025-26 Boston College (HE)
Set for bigger role after a season behind fellow Bruins kids Letourneau and Hagens at BC.
Expected NHL Arrival '30-31

6. Yuri Ivanov
Pos G **Age** 18
2025-26 Spartak Jr. (Rus.)
Second keeper selected in 2026 draft needs further seasoning in Russia's junior circuit.
Expected NHL Arrival '32-33

7. Will Zellers
Pos LW **Age** 20
2025-26 North Dakota (NCHC)
Goal-scoring winger parlayed strong start to freshman NCAA year into excellent WJC showing.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

8. Dans Locmelis
Pos C **Age** 22
2025-26 Providence (AHL)
Latvian's Olympic dream turned nightmare when shoulder injury led to season-ending surgery.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

9. Elliott Groenewold
Pos D **Age** 20
2025-26 Quinnipiac (ECAC)
Stepped into larger role at Quinnipiac, where he was first-team ECAC all-star last season.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

10. Christopher Pelosi
Pos C **Age** 21
2025-26 Quinnipiac (ECAC)
Lunchpail performer won't shy away from contact or punishment to put the puck in the net.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

POINTS-O-METER

2026-27 PROJECTIONS

	FORWARDS	DEFENSEMEN
100	109 Pastrnak	
80		
60	60 Geekie 60 Peterka 57 Zacha 52 E. Lindholm	McAvoy 55
40	41 Mittelstadt 39 Khusnutdinov 38 Hagens 37 Minten	H. Lindholm 29 Lohrei 27
20	23 Kuraly 22 Poitras 20 Kastelic	Zadorov 22 Borgen 20 Clifton 18
0	17 Jeannot 15 Eyssimont 15 Reichel	Jokiharju 12 Aspirot 9

SCHEDULE

Tue, Sept 29	vs NY Rangers	8:00 PM
Fri, Oct 2	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Sat, Oct 3	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Mon, Oct 5	vs Ottawa	7:30 PM
Thu, Oct 8	vs Utah	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 10	vs Philadelphia	1:00 PM
Tue, Oct 13	@ San Jose	11:00 PM
Fri, Oct 16	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sat, Oct 17	@ Los Angeles	9:00 PM
Tue, Oct 20	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Thu, Oct 22	vs Nashville	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 24	vs San Jose	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 27	@ Carolina	8:00 PM
Thu, Oct 29	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Sat, Oct 31	vs Chicago	1:00 PM
Mon, Nov 2	vs Vegas	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 5	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sun, Nov 8	vs Florida	1:00 PM
Thu, Nov 12	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 14	vs Minnesota	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 17	vs Los Angeles	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 18	@ Detroit	7:30 PM
Sat, Nov 21	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 25	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 27	vs Toronto	1:00 PM
Sun, Nov 29	vs Vancouver	5:00 PM
Tue, Dec 1	vs Colorado	7:30 PM
Sat, Dec 5	vs Detroit	1:00 PM
Tue, Dec 8	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 10	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 12	vs New Jersey	1:00 PM
Sun, Dec 13	@ Carolina	1:00 PM
Tue, Dec 15	vs Florida	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 17	vs St. Louis	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 19	@ New Jersey	12:00 PM
Sun, Dec 20	vs Philadelphia	1:00 PM
Tue, Dec 22	@ NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 26	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
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Sat, Feb 13	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
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Fri, Feb 19	@ Edmonton	8:00 PM
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Mon, Feb 22	@ Seattle	9:40 PM
Thu, Feb 25	vs Washington	8:00 PM
Sat, Feb 27	vs Detroit	12:00 PM
Wed, Mar 3	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 4	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 6	vs Pittsburgh	12:00 PM
Mon, Mar 8	vs Seattle	7:00 PM
Wed, Mar 10	@ Montreal	7:30 PM
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Thu, Mar 18	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 20	@ Nashville	5:00 PM
Tue, Mar 23	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 25	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Fri, Mar 26	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 30	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 1	@ Buffalo	7:30 PM
Sat, Apr 3	vs Tampa Bay	3:00 PM
Mon, Apr 5	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Wed, Apr 7	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Fri, Apr 9	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 10	@ Tampa Bay	8:00 PM

MEG KELLY/BC ATHLETICS

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

BOSTON BRUINS

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Luke Cavallin	25	6-1	193	Right	Swindon, Gbr.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Maine (ECHL)	34	18-10-5	2.35	.917
Michael DiPietro	27	6-1	205	Left	Windsor, Ont.	Trade: Van 10/27/22	Providence (AHL)	45	34-8-1	1.91	.930
Roberto Henriquez	19	6-1	168	Left	Bratislava, Svk.	170th overall (2026)	Green Bay (USHL)	37	21-9-4	2.22	.921
Yuri Ivanov	18	6-3	166	Left	Moscow, Rus.	56th overall (2026)	Spartak Moscow/Spartak MAH Jr. (Rus.)	26	16-9-1	2.64	.925
Max Lundgren	24	6-5	229	Left	Angelholm, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 3/29/26	Merrimack (HE)	39	21-16-2	2.55	.920
Jiri Patera	27	6-3	212	Left	Praha, Cze.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Abbotsford (AHL)	30	12-14-3	2.63	.910
Philip Svedeback	24	6-3	191	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	117th overall (2021)	Providence (HE)	18	8-6-2	2.32	.918
Jeremy Swayman	27	6-3	195	Left	Anchorage, Alaska	111th overall (2017)	Boston	55	31-18-4	2.71	.908
Simon Zajicek	25	6-1	185	Left	Frydlant, Cze.	Free Agent: signed 5/19/25	Providence (AHL)	21	14-6-0	2.44	.915

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Jonathan Aspirot	27	6-0	212	Left	Mascouche, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Boston	61	3	10	13	43
Vashek Blanar	19	6-4	183	Left	Vail, Colo.	100th overall (2025)	HV71 Jr. (Swe.)	30	5	10	15	57
Will Borgen	29	6-3	199	Right	Moorhead, Minn.	Trade: NYR 7/1/26	NY Rangers	75	5	10	15	41
Frederic Brunet	23	6-3	200	Left	Gatineau, Que.	132nd overall (2022)	Providence (AHL)	65	12	24	36	30
Connor Clifton	31	6-0	196	Right	Matawan, N.J.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Pittsburgh	50	2	4	6	53
Elliott Groenewold	20	6-2	200	Left	Springfield, Vt.	110th overall (2024)	Quinnipiac (ECAC)	40	7	13	20	22
Maxence Guenette	25	6-1	210	Right	L'Ancienne-Lorette, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Lehigh Valley (AHL)	46	2	22	24	19
Jordan Harris	26	6-0	189	Left	Haverhill, Mass.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Boston	8	1	2	3	0
Loke Johansson	20	6-3	213	Left	Huddinge, Swe.	186th overall (2024)	Maine (ECHL)	36	2	2	4	20
Henri Jokiharju	27	6-0	205	Right	Oulu, Fin.	Trade: Buf 3/7/25	Boston	41	2	13	15	14
Kristian Kostadinski	21	6-5	213	Left	Gothenburg, Swe.	220th overall (2023)	Boston College (HE)	34	0	3	3	2
Hampus Lindholm	32	6-4	217	Left	Helsingborg, Swe.	Trade: Ana 3/19/22	Boston	67	5	21	26	58
Mason Lohrei	25	6-5	218	Left	Baton Rouge, La.	58th overall (2020)	Boston	73	7	19	26	20
Charlie McAvoy	28	6-1	211	Right	Long Beach, N.Y.	14th overall (2016)	Boston	69	11	50	61	62
Cullen McCrate	19	6-1	199	Right	Adrian, Mich.	216th overall (2026)	Fargo (USHL)	61	10	20	30	49
Liam Pettersson	19	6-2	170	Left	Gislaved, Swe.	61st overall (2025)	Vaxjo Jr. (Swe.)	19	5	6	11	8
Billy Sweezey	30	6-1	202	Right	Hanson, Mass.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Providence (AHL)	69	1	16	17	84
Jacob Vandeven	18	6-5	183	Left	London, Ont.	157th overall (2026)	Komoka (GOHL)	47	13	19	32	80
Nikita Zadorov	31	6-7	255	Left	Moscow, Rus.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Boston	81	2	20	22	152

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Attilio Biasca	23	6-1	183	Left	Zug, Sui.	Free Agent: signed 6/14/26	Fribourg-Gotteron (Sui.)	45	15	12	27	6
Cole Chandler	19	6-2	176	Left	Halifax, N.S.	133rd overall (2025)	Shawinigan (QMJHL)	62	20	32	52	50
Riley Duran	24	6-2	198	Right	Boston, Mass.	182nd overall (2020)	Providence (AHL)	72	7	12	19	22
Michael Eyssimont	30	6-0	195	Left	Littleton, Colo.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Boston	56	8	10	18	31
Brendan Gaunce	32	6-2	222	Left	Sudbury, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Cleveland (AHL)	44	16	20	36	18
Morgan Geekie	28	6-3	212	Right	Strathclair, Man.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Boston	81	39	29	68	22
James Hagens	19	5-11	177	Left	Hauppauge, N.Y.	7th overall (2025)	Boston College (HE)	34	23	24	47	24
Beckett Hendrickson	21	6-2	174	Left	Minnetonka, Minn.	124th overall (2023)	Minnesota (Big Ten)	36	7	13	20	18
Ivan Ivan	24	6-0	190	Left	Ostrava, Cze.	Trade: Col 6/27/26	Colorado (AHL)	66	11	15	26	40
Mark Kastelic	27	6-4	234	Right	Phoenix, Ariz.	Trade: Ott 6/24/24	Boston	82	12	10	22	140
Marat Khusnutdinov	24	5-11	184	Left	Moscow, Rus.	Trade: Min 3/6/25	Boston	77	15	18	33	16
Sean Kuraly	33	6-2	208	Left	Niagara Falls, N.Y.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Boston	82	6	16	22	41
Dean Letourneau	20	6-7	210	Right	Arnprior, Ont.	25th overall (2024)	Boston College (HE)	36	22	17	39	22
Elias Lindholm	31	6-1	200	Right	Boden, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Boston	69	17	31	48	38
Dans Locmelis	22	6-0	179	Left	Jelgava, Lat.	119th overall (2022)	Providence (AHL)	43	15	13	28	6
Fraser Minten	22	6-2	204	Left	Vancouver, B.C.	Trade: Tor 3/7/25	Boston	82	17	18	35	20
Casey Mittelstadt	27	6-1	205	Left	Eden Prairie, Minn.	Trade: Col 3/7/25	Boston	71	15	27	42	12
William Moore	19	6-2	175	Left	Mississauga, Ont.	51st overall (2025)	Boston College (HE)	33	4	6	10	0
Jonathan Morello	20	6-1	178	Left	Toronto, Ont.	154th overall (2024)	Boston University (HE)	36	6	7	13	18
Christopher Pelosi	21	6-1	181	Left	Sewell, N.J.	92nd overall (2023)	Quinnipiac (ECAC)	35	18	16	34	12
Matthew Poitras	22	6-0	189	Right	Whitby, Ont.	54th overall (2022)	Providence (AHL)	69	13	31	44	48
Cole Spicer	22	5-10	175	Left	Grand Forks, N.D.	117th overall (2022)	Western Michigan (NCHC)	13	3	3	6	6
Alex Steeves	26	6-0	199	Left	St. Paul, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Boston	43	9	7	16	34
Ryan Walsh	23	6-0	180	Right	Rochester, N.Y.	188th overall (2023)	Cornell (ECAC)	33	10	23	33	33
Kirill Yemelyanov	19	6-0	170	Left	Irkutsk, Rus.	165th overall (2025)	Loko-76/Loko Jr. (Rus.)	56	32	25	57	42
Pavel Zacha	29	6-4	211	Left	Brno, Cze.	Trade: NJ 7/13/22	Boston	78	30	35	65	28

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Brian Halonen	27	6-0	207	Right	Delano, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Utica (AHL)	51	20	14	34	28
Tanner Jeannot	29	6-2	221	Left	Estevan, Sask.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Boston	77	6	16	22	66
Oskar Jellvik	23	5-11	175	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	149th overall (2021)	Boston College (HE)	9	2	1	3	4
Navrin Mutter	25	6-3	202	Left	London, Ont.	Trade: Nsh 3/12/26	Milwaukee/Providence (AHL)	39	1	1	2	95
Oscar Olsson	18	6-4	187	Left	Huddinge, Swe.	122nd overall (2026)	Orebro Jr. (Swe.)	32	14	16	30	30
Lukas Reichel	24	6-0	170	Left	Nuremberg, Ger.	Trade: Van 3/6/26	Chicago/Vancouver/Boston	29	3	5	8	6
Cooper Simpson	19	6-0	180	Left	Shakopee, Minn.	79th overall (2025)	Youngstown (USHL)	61	34	40	74	68
Kalle Vaisanen	23	6-5	200	Right	Kotka, Fin.	Trade: NYR 7/1/26	Hartford (AHL)	51	3	1	4	0
Will Zellers	20	5-10	163	Left	Maple Grove, Minn.	Trade: Col 3/7/25	North Dakota (NCHC)	38	18	16	34	29

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Nils Bartholdsson	18	5-10	179	Right	Halmstad, Swe.	88th overall (2026)	Rogle Jr. (Swe.)	32	23	19	42	20
Matvei Kotkov	18	6-1	183	Left	Yekaterinburg, Rus.	104th overall (2026)	Loko-76/Loko Jr. (Rus.)	37	14	17	31	6
Casper Nassen	22	6-4	205	Right	Norrtalje, Swe.	214th overall (2023)	Miami-Ohio (NCHC)	36	6	12	18	6
David Pastrnak	30	6-0	199	Right	Havirov, Cze.	25th overall (2014)	Boston	77	29	71	100	72
JJ Peterka	24	6-0	189	Left	Munich, Ger.	Trade: Uth 6/26/26	Utah	82	25	22	47	28

BUFFALO SABRES

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2025-26 NUMBERS

RECORD
50-23-9 (.665)

OVERTIME
3-8

SHOOTOUT
5-1

OVERALL
4th

OFFENSE
3.45 GPG (5th)

DEFENSE
2.93 GAA (10th)

POWER PLAY
19.5% (21st)

PENALTY KILL
81.9% (4th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.71 (14th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.71 (18th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
T. Thompson (19:15)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
R. Dahlin (24:11)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Lindy Ruff

GM
Jarmo Kekalainen

CAPTAIN
Rasmus Dahlin

ARENA
KeyBank Center

CAPACITY
19,029

AHL AFFILIATE
Rochester Americans

ECHL AFFILIATE
N/A

BY BILL HOPPE

THE SABRES CLOSED the 2025-26 regular season on a rollicking 39-9-5 run, captured the Atlantic Division and won their first post-season series in 19 years. In the process, the team became the toast of the city again and raised the expectations of the Buffalo faithful. A simple playoff berth will no longer suffice. They're expected to win a championship in the near future.

But a deep, talented roster took some big hits in the offseason. Bowen Byram wanted to become a No. 1 defenseman, so the Sabres traded him to Chicago in a deal that snagged them the fourth-overall pick. Right winger Alex Tuch also left in a sign-and-trade with Washington. The Sabres also play in the ultra-competitive Atlantic, where every team can legitimately argue they're playoff-worthy. The Sabres are good, no doubt, but the road to glory will be tough to traverse.

OFFENSE

The Sabres take pride in being an ensemble. Six players scored 19 or more goals last season – led by Tage Thompson's 40 – and 10 players had 40 or more points, led by Thompson's 81. The Sabres' active, talented defense corps, perhaps their greatest strength, helped the squad score 193 goals at 5-on-5, the league's fourth-highest total. The loss of Byram will hurt the attack, but the team still has Norris Trophy finalist Rasmus Dahlin, Owen Power and Mattias Samuelsson. They also traded for Olen Zellweger,

SERGEI BELSKI-IMAGN IMAGES

JOHN E. SOKOLOWSKI-IMAGN IMAGES

a young rearguard who possesses a similar talent profile to Byram. Tuch's production will be difficult to replace, but Buffalo is banking on some young forwards – Zach Benson, Konsta Helenius, Jiri Kulich and Noah Ostlund – growing into larger roles.

DEFENSE

Even after Byram's departure, the Sabres boast one of the league's most dynamic bluelines. Its ability to move the puck and create offense might be unmatched. Dahlin recorded 18 goals and 65 points in his final 63 outings, and Samuelsson, one of the league's best shutdown defenders, scored 13 goals and 41 points in 78 games. Power enjoyed a breakout campaign, developing into a consistent, trusted defender. He played alongside Byram, a No. 2 pairing that would've been the top tandem on most teams, but Zellweger should take Byram's old spot. Louis Crevier, who was acquired in the Byram trade, should form the third tandem alongside Conor Timmins or Zach Metsa. Dahlin, Samuelsson and Power are all entering their primes.

GOALTENDING

The Sabres used three goalies last season, mostly relying on Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen and Alex Lyon. Rookie Colten Ellis played 16 games, though, and regularly served as the backup. Luukkonen and Lyon formed a terrific tandem, but coach Lindy Ruff has said he is open to carrying three again. The dynamic between the goalies made what can be a difficult situation work well.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The late-season power-play struggles carried into the post-season, and over an 11-game stretch, including their first four playoff contests, the Sabres scored zero PP goals. They often had trouble entering the zone and setting up. Though they failed to produce goals, notable changes were finally made by Ruff late in the year. Dahlin quarterbacks the top unit, and Power will likely take over the second unit again after Byram replaced him last season. Most of the personnel should remain the same. The Sabres must replace Tuch, though, who was also a top penalty-killer for the NHL's fourth-ranked unit.

INTANGIBLES

A strong argument can be made that Ruff, who's in his second stint in Buffalo, did the finest job of his coaching career last season. After the Sabres struggled in 2024-25, his first season back, it felt like the team just couldn't be fixed and he'd be one-and-done. But Ruff's expectations reached his players, and the team became a powerhouse. He inked a well-deserved two-year extension in May.

The Hockey News CUP ODDS 27/1

ROOKIES

After Helenius played his first nine NHL games in January, the Sabres inserted him for Game 4 of their second-round series in Montreal – just a day after his 20th birthday. He thrived under pressure, and they expect him to be a major contributor in his first full season.

X-FACTOR

After scoring 15 goals and earning duty as the No. 1 center as a rookie, Kulich played just 12 games before a blood clot ended his 2025-26 campaign. If he can stay healthy, he's capable of scoring 20 to 25 goals and replacing some of Tuch's production.

THE BRASS

The Sabres were three games into their 10-game win streak when Jarmo Kekalainen replaced Kevyn Adams as GM in December. While they won with Adams' players, Kekalainen has started putting his mark on the team, dealing aggressively before the trade deadline and again in the off-season.

DEPTH CHART | 2026-27

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Zach Benson	1. Tage Thompson	1. Josh Doan
2. Jason Zucker	2. Jiri Kulich	2. Jack Quinn
3. Peyton Krebs	3. Ryan McLeod	3. Konsta Helenius
4. Noah Ostlund	4. Josh Norris	4. Beck Malenstyn
5. Tyson Kozak	5. Sam Carrick	5. Justin Danforth

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Rasmus Dahlin	6. Conor Timmins	1. Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen
2. Mattias Samuelsson	7. Zach Metsa	2. Alex Lyon
3. Owen Power	8. Dennis Gilbert	3. Colten Ellis
4. Olen Zellweger	9. Ryan Johnson	
5. Louis Crevier	10. Vsevolod Komarov	

■ INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Alex Tuch, RW; Bowen Byram, D; Jordan Greenway, LW; Logan Stanley, D; Michael Kesselring, D; Luke Schenn, D; Joshua Dunne, C; Tanner Pearson, LW

KONSTA HELENIUS

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Konsta Helenius
Pos C **Age** 20
2025-26 Rochester (AHL)
Nothing left for Helenius in the AHL. Versatile, pass-first scorer with top-six upside.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

2. Daxon Rudolph
Pos D **Age** 18
2025-26 Prince Albert (WHL)
All-around weapon has forward's scoring instincts and shutdown blueliner's size and reach.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

3. Radim Mrtka
Pos D **Age** 19
2025-26 Seattle (WHL)
Stick-on-puck 'D' uses 6-foot-6 frame and enormous wingspan well. Needs more nastiness.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

4. Ilia Morozov
Pos C **Age** 18
2025-26 Miami-Ohio (NCHC)
Any offense is a bonus. Russian pivot has bedded into North American game since mid-teens.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

5. Adam Kleber
Pos D **Age** 20
2025-26 Minn.-Duluth (NCHC)
Giant rearguard was conference's top defensive blueliner and WJC minute-muncher for USA.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

6. Brodie Ziemer
Pos RW **Age** 20
2025-26 Minnesota (Big Ten)
Dynamic skills. Was standout at Minnesota and USA WJC captain. Would benefit from bulking up.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

7. Maxim Strbak
Pos D **Age** 21
2025-26 Michigan State (Big Ten)
Puck-mover with a high floor and modest ceiling. Graduating to AHL after three years in NCAA.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

8. Vsevolod Komarov
Pos D **Age** 22
2025-26 Rochester (AHL)
Serviceable in mid-pairing AHL minutes. Good all-around skill set with a helping of grit.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

9. Luke Osburn
Pos D **Age** 20
2025-26 Wisconsin (Big Ten)
All-rookie Big Ten nod, but his coming-out party was playing big minutes for USA at WJC.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

10. Yevgeni Prokhorov
Pos G **Age** 19
2025-26 Bobrusyk Jr. (Rus.)
Respectable regular season followed by playoff-best .938 SP in top Russian junior circuit.
Expected NHL Arrival '31-32

POINTS-O-METER

2026-27 PROJECTIONS

	FORWARDS	DEFENSEMEN
100		
		Dahlin 87
	83 Thompson	
80		
	62 Quinn	
60		
	58 Benson	
	52 Norris	
	50 Doan	
	49 Zucker	
	46 McLeod	
	42 Helenius	
40		
		Zellweger 36
	35 Ostlund	
	33 Krebs	Power 34
		Samuelsson 28
	25 Danforth	
20	20 Malenstyn	Crevier 20
	16 Carrick	
	16 Sheary	
		Timmins 11
	7 Kozak	
		Metsa 6
0		

SCHEDULE

Thu, Oct 1	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 3	vs Chicago	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 6	vs Minnesota	8:00 PM
Thu, Oct 8	vs Dallas	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 10	vs Utah	7:00 PM
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Wed, Oct 21	vs Philadelphia	7:30 PM
Sat, Oct 24	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 27	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
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Sat, Mar 6	vs NY Rangers	3:00 PM
Sun, Mar 7	@ Ottawa	5:00 PM
Tue, Mar 9	vs Vancouver	7:00 PM
Fri, Mar 12	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 14	@ Minnesota	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 15	vs San Jose	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 18	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 20	vs Florida	1:00 PM
Sun, Mar 21	@ NY Islanders	3:00 PM
Tue, Mar 23	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 25	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 28	@ St. Louis	9:00 PM
Tue, Mar 30	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Thu, Apr 1	vs Boston	7:30 PM
Sat, Apr 3	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Mon, Apr 5	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Wed, Apr 7	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 10	vs Detroit	6:00 PM

MICHELINE VELUVOLU/ROCHESTER AMERICANS

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

BUFFALO SABRES

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Colten Ellis	25	6-1	191	Left	Whycocomagh, N.S.	Waivers: StL 10/6/25	Buffalo	16	8-4-2	2.90	.903
Topias Leinonen	22	6-5	234	Left	Jyvaskyla, Fin.	41st overall (2022)	Rochester (AHL)	8	3-3-3	3.48	.855
Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen	27	6-5	223	Left	Espoo, Fin.	54th overall (2017)	Buffalo	35	22-9-3	2.52	.910
Alex Lyon	33	6-1	199	Left	Baudette, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Buffalo	36	20-10-4	2.77	.907
Samuel Meloche	19	6-2	197	Left	Salaberry-de-Valleyfield, Que.	116th overall (2025)	Rouyn-Noranda (QMJHL)	50	33-13-3	2.75	.897
Yevgeni Prokhorov	19	6-3	179	Left	Lida, Blr.	199th overall (2025)	Bobruysk Jr. (Rus.)	29	14-9-5	1.96	.925
Scott Ratzlaff	21	6-1	188	Left	Irma, Alta.	141st overall (2023)	Jacksonville (ECHL)	15	5-7-2	3.10	.913
Matt Villalta	27	6-3	190	Left	Kingston, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/3/26	Tucson (AHL)	33	16-12-3	3.10	.895

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
David Bedkowski	19	6-5	221	Right	Toronto, Ont.	71st overall (2025)	Owen Sound/Ottawa (OHL)	68	5	24	29	118
Simon-Pier Brunet	20	6-2	199	Right	Gatineau, Que.	123rd overall (2024)	Victoriaville (QMJHL)	54	2	24	26	61
Louis Crevier	25	6-8	228	Right	Quebec, Que.	Trade: Chi 6/23/26	Chicago	78	7	18	25	63
Rasmus Dahlin	26	6-3	204	Left	Lidkoping, Swe.	1st overall (2018)	Buffalo	77	19	55	74	76
Patrick Geary	22	6-1	189	Left	Buffalo, N.Y.	172nd overall (2024)	Michigan State (Big Ten)	35	2	9	11	70
Dennis Gilbert	29	6-2	216	Left	Buffalo, N.Y.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Lehigh Valley/Belleville (AHL)	37	0	13	13	33
Ryan Johnson	25	6-1	195	Left	Newport Beach, Calif.	31st overall (2019)	Rochester (AHL)	56	5	14	19	40
Sean Keohane	21	6-4	198	Left	Boston, Mass.	173rd overall (2023)	Harvard (ECAC)	34	2	1	3	20
Adam Kleber	20	6-6	229	Right	Chaska, Minn.	42nd overall (2024)	Minnesota-Duluth (NCHC)	40	3	9	12	19
Vsevolod Komarov	22	6-4	211	Right	Chelyabinsk, Rus.	134th overall (2022)	Rochester (AHL)	55	4	7	11	60
Noah Laberge	19	6-1	187	Left	St-Bruno, Que.	135th overall (2025)	Newfoundland (QMJHL)	62	7	49	56	41
Gavin McCarthy	21	6-2	194	Right	Troy, N.Y.	86th overall (2023)	Boston University (HE)	36	4	17	21	40
Zach Metsa	27	5-9	198	Right	Delafield, Wis.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Buffalo	43	2	4	6	8
Radim Mrtka	19	6-6	218	Right	Havlickuv Brod, Cze.	9th overall (2025)	Seattle (WHL)	43	1	33	34	38
Luke Osburn	20	6-1	181	Left	Plymouth, Mich.	108th overall (2024)	Wisconsin (Big Ten)	33	6	15	21	18
Norwin Panocha	21	6-2	196	Left	Bayreuth, Ger.	205th overall (2023)	Berlin (Ger.)	32	0	3	3	12
Owen Power	23	6-6	226	Left	Mississauga, Ont.	1st overall (2021)	Buffalo	81	8	21	29	16
Jack Rathbone	27	5-11	188	Left	Boston, Mass.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Rochester (AHL)	49	5	13	18	26
Daxon Rudolph	18	6-3	206	Right	Lacombe, Alta.	4th overall (2026)	Prince Albert (WHL)	68	28	50	78	75
Mattias Samuelsson	26	6-4	229	Left	Philadelphia, Pa.	32nd overall (2018)	Buffalo	78	13	28	41	28
Maxim Strbak	21	6-2	196	Right	Kosice, Svk.	45th overall (2023)	Michigan State (Big Ten)	37	3	15	18	10
Conor Timmins	28	6-3	213	Right	St. Catharines, Ont.	Trade: Pit 6/28/25	Buffalo	39	0	8	8	18
Olen Zellweger	23	5-10	193	Left	Calgary, Alta.	Trade: Ana 6/26/26	Anaheim	76	7	15	22	34

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Zach Benson	21	5-10	177	Left	Chilliwack, B.C.	13th overall (2023)	Buffalo	65	13	30	43	42
Sam Carrick	34	6-0	202	Right	Markham, Ont.	Trade: NYR 3/6/26	NY Rangers/Buffalo	73	9	7	16	65
Riley Fiddler-Schultz	24	6-0	197	Left	Edmonton, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Rochester (AHL)	62	21	16	37	32
Konsta Helenius	20	5-11	190	Right	Ylojarvi, Fin.	14th overall (2024)	Rochester (AHL)	63	21	42	63	22
Tyson Kozak	23	5-11	185	Left	Souris, Man.	193rd overall (2021)	Buffalo	46	2	4	6	2
Peyton Krebs	25	6-0	188	Left	Calgary, Alta.	Trade: Veg 11/4/21	Buffalo	82	12	27	39	78
Matous Jan Kucharcik	19	6-4	180	Left	Vipiteno, Ita.	103rd overall (2025)	Youngstown (USHL)	35	9	7	16	18
Jiri Kulich	22	6-1	193	Left	Kadan, Cze.	28th overall (2022)	Buffalo	12	3	2	5	4
Trevor Kuntar	25	6-0	205	Left	Buffalo, N.Y.	Free Agent: signed 12/10/25	Rochester (AHL)	70	21	16	37	85
Ryan McLeod	27	6-3	204	Left	Mississauga, Ont.	Trade: Edm 7/5/24	Buffalo	81	14	40	54	16
Ilia Morozov	18	6-3	200	Left	Moscow, Rus.	20th overall (2026)	Miami-Ohio (NCHC)	36	8	12	20	27
Olivers Murnieks	18	6-1	192	Left	Riga, Lat.	124th overall (2026)	Saint John (QMJHL)	31	7	13	20	14
Josh Norris	27	6-2	196	Left	Oxford, Mich.	Trade: Ott 3/7/25	Buffalo	44	13	21	34	28
Noah Ostlund	22	5-11	180	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	16th overall (2022)	Buffalo	60	11	16	27	14
Ryan Rucinski	19	5-11	180	Right	Broadview Heights, Ohio	219th overall (2025)	Youngstown (USHL)	59	27	35	62	88
Ashton Schultz	19	5-11	190	Right	Minnetonka, Minn.	167th overall (2025)	Chicago/Sioux City (USHL)	49	17	25	42	53
Doman Szongoth	18	6-1	195	Left	Budapest, Hun.	156th overall (2026)	KooKoo Jr. (Fin.)	44	10	18	28	57
Tage Thompson	28	6-6	220	Right	Phoenix, Ariz.	Trade: StL 7/1/18	Buffalo	81	40	41	81	35

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Mason Geertsen	31	6-4	231	Left	Drayton Valley, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Rochester (AHL)	35	2	2	4	77
Beck Malenstyn	28	6-3	209	Left	Delta, B.C.	Trade: Wsh 6/29/24	Buffalo	81	7	7	14	38
Aidan McDonough	26	6-3	190	Left	Milton, Mass.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/26	Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (AHL)	65	23	21	44	24
Melvin Novotny	19	6-2	185	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	195th overall (2025)	Muskegon (USHL)	48	22	35	57	26
Prokhor Poltapov	23	6-0	176	Right	St. Petersburg, Rus.	33rd overall (2021)	CSKA Moscow (KHL)	68	16	24	40	28
Conor Sheary	34	5-8	180	Left	Winchester, Mass.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	NY Rangers	62	7	11	18	14
Jason Zucker	34	5-11	198	Left	Newport Beach, Calif.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Buffalo	62	24	21	45	23

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Justin Danforth	33	5-8	193	Right	Oshawa, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/25	Buffalo	4	0	0	0	2
Josh Doan	24	6-2	198	Right	Scottsdale, Ariz.	Trade: Uth 6/26/25	Buffalo	82	25	27	52	25
Dylan Dumont	18	6-0	168	Right	Levis, Que.	188th overall (2026)	Drummondville (QMJHL)	62	28	16	44	8
Zac Funk	23	6-0	210	Left	Coldstream, B.C.	Trade: Wsh 7/13/26	South Carolina (ECHL)	23	9	10	19	8
Carson Meyer	29	5-11	187	Right	Powell, Ohio	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Rochester (AHL)	55	14	17	31	24
Jason Polin	27	6-0	198	Right	Holt, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Colorado (AHL)	46	10	11	21	10
Jack Quinn	25	6-1	185	Right	Ottawa, Ont.	8th overall (2020)	Buffalo	82	20	31	51	18
Jake Richard	22	6-1	188	Right	Jacksonville, Fla.	170th overall (2022)	Connecticut (HE)	38	10	17	27	42
Stiven Sardarian	23	6-2	175	Left	St. Petersburg, Rus.	88th overall (2021)	Michigan Tech (CCHA)	37	12	32	44	30
Vasily Zelenov	20	6-0	194	Left	Moscow, Rus.	204th overall (2024)	Wisconsin (Big Ten)	28	6	13	19	23
Brodie Ziemer	20	5-11	192	Right	Hutchinson, Minn.	71st overall (2024)	Minnesota (Big Ten)	36	23	13	36	26

CALGARY FLAMES

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2025-26 NUMBERS

RECORD
34-39-9 (.470)

OVERTIME
3-6

SHOOTOUT
4-3

OVERALL
29th

OFFENSE
2.54 GPG (32nd)

DEFENSE
3.12 GAA (21st)

POWER PLAY
16.2% (31st)

PENALTY KILL
80.4% (12th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.54 (23rd)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.83 (25th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
N. Kadri (19:22)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
R. Andersson (24:14)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Ryan Huska

GM
Craig Conroy

CAPTAIN
Mikael Backlund

ARENA
Scotiabank Saddledome

CAPACITY
19,289

AHL AFFILIATE
Calgary Wranglers

ECHL AFFILIATE
Rapid City Rush

BY STEVE MACFARLANE

THE CALGARY FLAMES HAD a busy off-season, keeping their focus firmly fixed on the future. No big free-agency splashes were needed, and they let a few of their own UFAs walk, including popular veteran Ryan Lomberg.

GM Craig Conroy and his crew took advantage of significant draft capital to make nine selections. They also dove into the trade market by moving Blake Coleman and Olli Maatta in an effort to get younger and keep the shelves stocked with picks. Another deal brought in 2022 second-overall pick Simon Nemec from New Jersey. He was then signed to a long-term deal to help set the foundation of their blueline. There is no question this is a rebuilding team, with the Flames' sights set on being competitive down the road as their prospects improve together. This will hurt, but fans have been ready for this for years.

OFFENSE

There is no sugarcoating it. The Flames' offense is abysmal. In his second full season, Matt Coronato led the offense with 45 points in 80 games – the high-water mark for a team that failed to produce a single 50-point player. Morgan Frost was tops with 22 goals, and only two other players – Coleman and Joel Farabee – hit the 20-goal mark. With Coleman and Nazem Kadri gone, Coronato, Frost and Farabee will once again pace a team that lacks offensive stars. But young players, including sophomore Matvei Gridin, will benefit from additional opportunities. Jonathan

SERGEI BELSKI-IMAGN IMAGES

PERRY NELSON-IMAGN IMAGES

Huberdeau and Yegor Sharangovich can also be productive when healthy.

DEFENSE

With the additions of Zach Whitecloud and Jake Middleton – along with the departure of Rasmus Andersson last season – the back end looks nothing like it did two years ago. Alongside Kevin Bahl, Whitecloud and Middleton will provide defensive stability and toughness. The other three spots should be filled by youngsters, with Nemec a prime candidate to play big minutes. Zayne Parekh is expected to take a big leap in production and ice time. He has the potential to be a power-play specialist. Yan Kuznetsov will push for the last spot after emerging as an option last year, while Brayden Pachal and Joel Hanley will provide depth.

GOALTENDING

The tandem of Dustin Wolf and Devin Cooley, which some analysts considered to be the league's best last season, will be tested again as the Flames attempt to balance the back end. While Wolf will get the majority of the starts, the team has confidence in Cooley, who was a pleasant surprise in 2025-26. Given the Flames' offensive shortcomings, neither netminder will be able to steal enough wins for the club to be competitive, but they should be stable enough to keep things interesting.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Given the Flames had the second-worst power play last season, it's hard to go anywhere but up. Huberdeau, Coronato, Frost and Parekh are the four holdovers who logged the most PP time per game, and they will play prominent roles again. Nemec will get a good look, too. Farabee, Connor Zary and Ryan Strome are other considerations. On the other hand, the penalty kill remained a relative strength, anchored by strong goaltending and the defensive play of Coleman and Mikael Backlund. Farabee should get the first crack at filling in for Coleman, while Bahl and Whitecloud will hold it down on the blueline.

INTANGIBLES

Backlund remains the steady anchor for a transitioning roster. He's a veteran whom the organization is counting on to help the youngsters find their footing at the game's highest level. The team's average age has dipped significantly, which means lots of opportunity for prospects to develop, but can the Flames catch lightning in a bottle and exceed expectations?

The Hockey News CUP ODDS

80/1

ROOKIES

There are no rookies expected to play large roles for the Flames, but sophomores Parekh and Gridin will have plenty of opportunities to make large impacts. Defenseman Carson Carels, the team's sixth-overall pick this summer, will develop his game in the NCAA, while Aydar Suniev and William Stromgren are sleepers who could emerge as regulars.

X-FACTOR

Zary, who turns 25 in September, has long flashed his offensive potential, but he has yet to put it together consistently at the NHL level. It would be the perfect time for him to break through and bolster the Flames' flaky offense. How the rebuilt back end comes together will also play a role in whether Calgary exceeds expectations.

THE BRASS

Although the ownership group evaded a true rebuild for a long time, things are finally turning the corner. Conroy continues to match his words with action. By prioritizing young players and draft picks, his goal is to build a core that can grow together and peak in the next few years.

DEPTH CHART | 2026-27

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Matvei Gridin	1. Morgan Frost	1. Matt Coronato
2. Connor Zary	2. Mikael Backlund	2. Joel Farabee
3. Jonathan Huberdeau	3. Ryan Strome	3. Yegor Sharangovich
4. Maxim Tsyplakov	4. Martin Pospisil	4. Adam Klapka
5. Aydar Suniev	5. Samuel Honzek	5. William Stromgren

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Simon Nemec	6. Yan Kuznetsov	1. Dustin Wolf
2. Zach Whitecloud	7. Joel Hanley	2. Devin Cooley
3. Kevin Bahl	8. Brayden Pachal	3. Arsenii Sergeev
4. Jake Middleton	9. Hunter Brzustewicz	
5. Zayne Parekh	10. Abram Wiebe	

■ INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Blake Coleman, LW; Olli Maatta, D; Ryan Lomberg, LW; Justin Kirkland, C; Victor Olofsson, RW; John Beecher, C; Jake Bean, D

CARSON CARELS

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Carson Carels
Pos D **Age** 18
2025-26 Prince George (WHL)
Plays even bigger than 6-foot-2 frame. Physically punishing with top-tier scoring touch.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

2. Cole Reschny
Pos C **Age** 19
2025-26 North Dakota (NCHC)
Vision and smarts on display as NCAA freshman. A shooting mentality will elevate game.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

3. Jack Hextall
Pos C **Age** 18
2025-26 Youngstown (USHL)
Patience with the puck and commitment to two-way play prepare him for NCAA transition.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

4. Cullen Potter
Pos C **Age** 19
2025-26 Arizona State (NCHC)
Cut from the same cloth as USA legend mom, Jenny: fast, agile with top-end puck skill.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

5. Ethan Wyttenbach
Pos LW **Age** 19
2025-26 Quinnipiac (ECAC)
Freshman Hobey Baker finalist stunned by leading NCAA in scoring. Doesn't let size limit him.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

6. Aydar Suniev
Pos LW **Age** 21
2025-26 Calgary (AHL)
Cup of coffee with Flames gave glimpse of what's required at NHL level. Consistency is key.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

7. Henry Mews
Pos D **Age** 20
2025-26 Michigan (Big Ten)
Devastating ACL injury cost him much of last season after playmaking rearguard had hot start.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

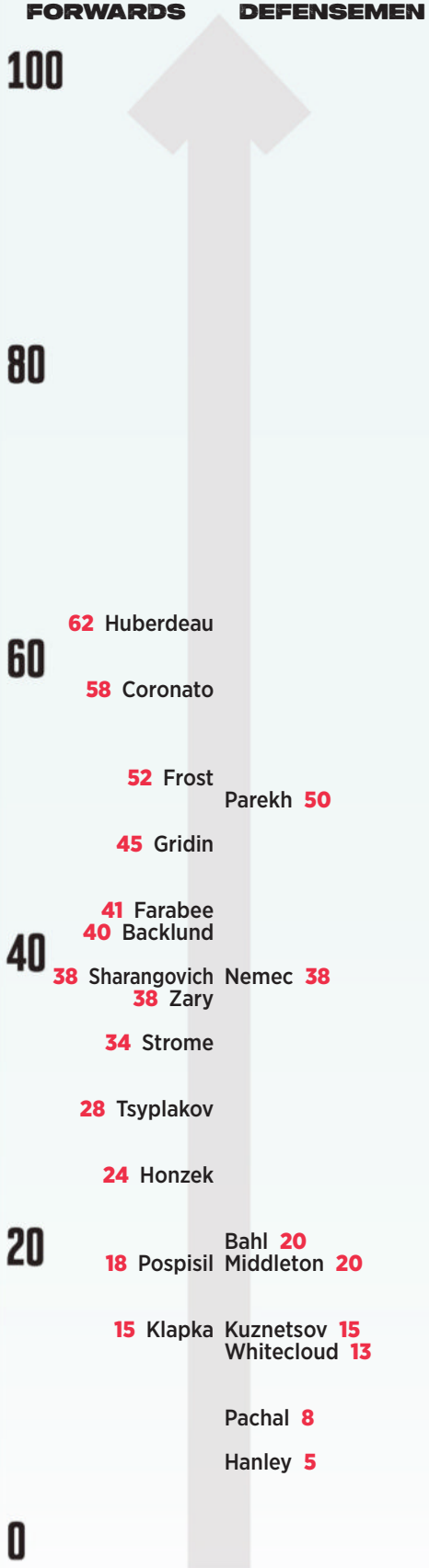
8. Andrew Basha
Pos LW **Age** 20
2025-26 Medicine Hat (WHL)
Split season between AHL and WHL. Experience will ready him for full season on the farm.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

9. Chase Harrington
Pos LW **Age** 18
2025-26 Spokane (WHL)
Numbers don't leap off the page, but his commitment and drive are intangibles coaches love.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

10. Tobias Trejbal
Pos G **Age** 18
2025-26 Youngstown (USHL)
At 6-foot-4, he has requisite NHL size. Had best GAA among USHL keepers to play half season.
Expected NHL Arrival '31-32

POINTS-O-METER

2026-27 PROJECTIONS



SCHEDULE

Thu, Oct 1	vs Seattle	9:00 PM
Sat, Oct 3	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Sun, Oct 4	@ Seattle	8:00 PM
Thu, Oct 8	vs Colorado	9:00 PM
Sat, Oct 10	vs Anaheim	10:00 PM
Tue, Oct 13	@ Anaheim	9:45 PM
Thu, Oct 15	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Sun, Oct 18	vs Carolina	8:00 PM
Thu, Oct 22	vs Minnesota	9:00 PM
Sat, Oct 24	vs Detroit	10:00 PM
Mon, Oct 26	vs Toronto	8:30 PM
Wed, Oct 28	@ Edmonton	8:30 PM
Fri, Oct 30	vs Seattle	8:00 PM
Sat, Oct 31	@ Colorado	10:00 PM
Mon, Nov 2	@ San Jose	9:00 PM
Wed, Nov 4	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Fri, Nov 6	vs Anaheim	8:00 PM
Sun, Nov 8	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 11	vs NY Rangers	7:30 PM
Sat, Nov 14	@ Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Sun, Nov 15	@ Anaheim	8:00 PM
Tue, Nov 17	@ San Jose	10:00 PM
Thu, Nov 19	vs Minnesota	8:00 PM
Sat, Nov 21	vs Chicago	3:30 PM
Mon, Nov 23	@ Ottawa	7:30 PM
Wed, Nov 25	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 27	@ New Jersey	1:00 PM
Sat, Nov 28	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 1	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 3	vs Buffalo	8:00 PM
Sat, Dec 5	vs Washington	3:30 PM
Tue, Dec 8	vs Nashville	8:00 PM
Thu, Dec 10	@ NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 11	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 15	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 17	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 19	@ Florida	1:00 PM
Tue, Dec 22	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Sat, Dec 26	vs Vancouver	10:00 PM
Tue, Dec 29	vs San Jose	8:00 PM
Thu, Dec 31	vs Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 2	@ Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 3	@ St. Louis	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 5	vs Florida	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 7	vs NY Islanders	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 9	vs Tampa Bay	3:30 PM
Tue, Jan 12	vs Columbus	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 14	vs San Jose	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 16	vs Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Mon, Jan 18	@ Chicago	8:30 PM
Thu, Jan 21	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 23	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 26	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 28	vs Montreal	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 30	vs New Jersey	3:30 PM
Mon, Feb 1	vs Vegas	7:30 PM
Wed, Feb 3	vs Utah	9:00 PM
Fri, Feb 12	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Sat, Feb 13	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Mon, Feb 15	@ Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Wed, Feb 17	vs Boston	9:00 PM
Fri, Feb 19	vs Pittsburgh	8:00 PM
Sun, Feb 21	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Wed, Feb 24	@ Utah	8:00 PM
Sat, Feb 27	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Wed, Mar 3	vs Edmonton	8:30 PM
Fri, Mar 5	vs Chicago	8:00 PM
Sun, Mar 7	@ Winnipeg	3:00 PM
Tue, Mar 9	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Fri, Mar 12	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 13	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 15	vs Nashville	9:30 PM
Wed, Mar 17	vs Dallas	9:30 PM
Fri, Mar 19	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Sun, Mar 21	vs St. Louis	8:00 PM
Tue, Mar 23	vs Edmonton	9:00 PM
Thu, Mar 25	vs Los Angeles	9:00 PM
Sat, Mar 27	vs Vegas	10:00 PM
Tue, Mar 30	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Thu, Apr 1	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Sat, Apr 3	@ Nashville	3:30 PM
Mon, Apr 5	@ Edmonton	9:30 PM
Thu, Apr 8	vs Colorado	9:00 PM
Sat, Apr 10	vs Vancouver	10:00 PM

PHOTO BY PRINCE GEORGE COUGARS

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

CALGARY FLAMES

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Daniil Chechelev	25	6-3	187	Right	Khabarovsk, Rus.	96th overall (2020)	Kirovo-Chepetsk (Rus.2)	14	4-6-1	2.18	.923
Devin Cooley	29	6-5	192	Left	Los Gatos, Calif.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Calgary	26	10-10-6	2.69	.909
Arsenii Sergeev	23	6-3	192	Left	Yaroslavl, Rus.	205th overall (2021)	Calgary (AHL)	29	6-13-12	3.35	.898
Tobias Trejbal	18	6-4	190	Right	Most, Cze.	42nd overall (2026)	Youngstown (USHL)	42	30-9-3	2.12	.916
Dustin Wolf	25	6-0	166	Left	Gilroy, Calif.	214th overall (2019)	Calgary	57	23-29-3	3.01	.899
Yegor Yegorov	21	6-3	183	Left	Moscow, Rus.	176th overall (2023)	Spartak-MAH Moscow Jr. (Rus.)	38	13-17-6	2.97	.918
Kirill Zarubin	21	6-3	178	Left	Penza, Rus.	84th overall (2024)	Tula Jr. (Rus.)	48	26-13-3	2.17	.930

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Kevin Bahl	26	6-6	230	Left	New Westminster, B.C.	Trade: NJ 6/19/24	Calgary	76	4	14	18	47
Mike Benning	24	5-9	185	Right	Edmonton, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Charlotte (AHL)	57	8	23	31	40
Hunter Brzustewicz	21	6-0	190	Right	Washington, Mich.	Trade: Van 1/31/24	Calgary	34	2	5	7	4
Carson Carels	18	6-2	198	Left	Brandon, Man.	6th overall (2026)	Prince George (WHL)	58	20	53	73	66
Andreas Englund	30	6-4	200	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Milwaukee (AHL)	52	3	10	13	65
Joel Hanley	35	5-11	186	Left	Keswick, Ont.	Waivers: Dal 3/5/24	Calgary	68	0	7	7	44
Axel Hurtig	21	6-4	202	Left	Hogas, Swe.	208th overall (2023)	Calgary (WHL)	64	6	13	19	46
Eric Jamieson	21	6-3	200	Left	Calgary, Alta.	177th overall (2024)	Denver (NCHC)	43	7	11	18	47
Yan Kuznetsov	24	6-4	209	Left	Murmansk, Rus.	50th overall (2020)	Calgary	57	4	8	12	28
Bode Laylin	18	5-11	178	Right	St. Michael, Minn.	164th overall (2026)	Tri-City (USHL)	55	11	27	38	45
Jakob Leander	19	6-4	196	Right	Jonkoping, Swe.	208th overall (2025)	HV71 Jr. (Swe.)	36	2	10	12	61
Jake Livingstone	27	6-4	213	Right	Creston, B.C.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Charlotte (AHL)	52	3	14	17	24
Henry Mews	20	6-0	181	Right	Ottawa, Ont.	74th overall (2024)	Michigan (Big Ten)	10	0	9	9	6
Jake Middleton	30	6-3	219	Left	Wainwright, Alta.	Trade: Min 7/2/26	Minnesota	75	2	14	16	76
Simon Nemec	22	6-1	190	Right	Liptovsky Mikulas, Svk.	Trade: NJ 6/23/26	New Jersey	68	11	15	26	26
Nikita Okhotiuk	25	6-1	195	Left	Chelyabinsk, Rus.	Trade: SJ 3/8/24	CSKA Moscow (KHL)	67	2	12	14	27
Brayden Pachal	27	6-2	202	Right	Estevan, Sask.	Waivers: Veg 2/4/24	Calgary	39	1	6	7	47
Zayne Parekh	20	6-0	179	Right	Markham, Ont.	9th overall (2024)	Calgary	37	4	5	9	8
Maceo Phillips	19	6-6	228	Left	Wayzata, Minn.	80th overall (2025)	Green Bay (USHL)	44	1	10	11	187
Zach Whitecloud	29	6-2	210	Right	Brandon, Man.	Trade: Veg 1/18/26	Vegas/Calgary	78	2	15	17	30
Abram Wiebe	23	6-2	187	Left	Mission, B.C.	Trade: Veg 1/18/26	North Dakota (NCHC)	40	5	24	29	6

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Mikael Backlund	37	6-0	206	Left	Vasteras, Swe.	24th overall (2007)	Calgary	82	17	26	43	16
Egor Barabanov	20	6-0	177	Left	St. Petersburg, Rus.	100th overall (2026)	Saginaw (OHL)	68	28	63	91	79
Jonathan Castagna	21	6-1	183	Left	Toronto, Ont.	Trade: Uth 3/4/26	Cornell (ECAC)	34	15	19	34	31
Maxmilian Curran	20	6-3	179	Left	Prague, Cze.	Trade: Col 3/6/26	Edmonton (WHL)	31	14	27	41	23
Morgan Frost	27	6-0	193	Left	Aurora, Ont.	Trade: Phi 1/31/25	Calgary	82	22	21	43	28
Tyson Gross	24	6-3	195	Right	Calgary, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 3/12/26	St. Cloud State (NCHC)	36	18	23	41	30
Jack Hextall	18	6-1	188	Right	Arlington Heights, Ill.	30th overall (2026)	Youngstown (USHL)	59	20	38	58	28
Jonathan Huberdeau	33	6-1	200	Left	St-Jerome, Que.	Trade: Fla 7/22/22	Calgary	50	10	15	25	41
Ben Jones	27	6-0	187	Left	Waterloo, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Iowa (AHL)	37	12	20	32	26
Rory Kerins	24	5-10	175	Left	Caledon, Ont.	174th overall (2020)	Calgary (AHL)	56	22	35	57	16
Jaden Lipinski	21	6-4	204	Right	Scottsdale, Ariz.	112th overall (2023)	Maine (HE)	30	3	9	12	33
Cade Littler	22	6-3	197	Right	East Wenatchee, Wash.	219th overall (2022)	North Dakota (NCHC)	35	5	8	13	28
Luke Misa	20	5-10	170	Left	Oakville, Ont.	150th overall (2024)	Penn State (Big Ten)	37	8	11	19	2
Martin Pospisil	26	6-2	173	Left	Zvolen, Svk.	105th overall (2018)	Calgary	22	1	2	3	17
Cullen Potter	19	5-10	172	Left	Hortonville, Wis.	32nd overall (2025)	Arizona State (NCHC)	24	12	14	26	16
Cole Reschny	19	5-11	183	Left	Macklin, Sask.	18th overall (2025)	North Dakota (NCHC)	36	6	29	35	22
Yegor Sharangovich	28	6-2	196	Left	Minsk, Blr.	Trade: NJ 6/27/23	Calgary	78	15	14	29	12
Theo Stockselius	19	6-2	181	Left	Norrtalje, Swe.	54th overall (2025)	Djurgarden (SHL)	16	0	1	1	6
Ryan Strome	33	6-1	192	Right	Mississauga, Ont.	Trade: Ana 3/6/26	Anaheim/Calgary	52	8	13	21	35
Connor Zary	25	6-0	178	Left	Saskatoon, Sask.	24th overall (2020)	Calgary	74	12	13	25	22

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Andrew Basha	20	5-11	174	Left	Calgary, Alta.	41st overall (2024)	Medicine Hat (WHL)	32	18	32	50	28
Joel Farabee	26	6-0	186	Left	Syracuse, N.Y.	Trade: Phi 1/31/25	Calgary	82	20	18	38	28
Chase Harrington	18	6-1	194	Left	Prince George, B.C.	36th overall (2026)	Spokane (WHL)	61	28	29	57	105
Samuel Honzek	21	6-4	186	Left	Trencin, Svk.	16th overall (2023)	Calgary	18	2	2	4	2
Dryden Hunt	30	6-0	193	Left	Cranbrook, B.C.	Trade: Tor 3/3/23	Calgary (AHL)	52	18	45	63	64
Simon Katolicky	18	6-4	202	Left	Havlickuv Brod, Cze.	132nd overall (2026)	Tappara Jr. (Fin.)	29	6	11	17	16
Yan Matveiko	20	6-1	150	Left	Moscow, Rus.	211th overall (2025)	CSKA Moscow Jr. (Rus.)	50	15	22	37	20
Sam Morton	27	6-0	185	Left	Lafayette, Colo.	Free Agent: signed 3/18/24	Calgary (AHL)	68	17	21	38	30
Brennan Othmann	23	6-0	192	Left	Pickering, Ont.	Trade: NYR 3/6/26	Hartford/Calgary (AHL)	40	9	14	23	62
William Stromgren	23	6-3	175	Left	Ornskoldsvik, Swe.	45th overall (2021)	Calgary (AHL)	66	11	36	47	52
Aydar Suniev	21	6-2	198	Left	Kazan, Rus.	80th overall (2023)	Calgary (AHL)	57	16	8	24	14
Ethan Wyttenbach	19	5-10	180	Right	Roslyn, N.Y.	144th overall (2025)	Quinnipiac (ECAC)	40	25	34	59	20

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Matt Coronato	23	5-10	183	Right	Greenlawn, N.Y.	13th overall (2021)	Calgary	80	18	27	45	32
Matvei Gridin	20	6-1	182	Left	Kurgan, Rus.	28th overall (2024)	Calgary	37	6	14	20	2
Trevor Hoskin	22	6-1	175	Right	Belleville, Ont.	106th overall (2024)	Merrimack (HE)	34	13	22	35	14
Joe Iginla	18	5-10	170	Right	St. Albert, Alta.	65th overall (2026)	Edmonton/Vancouver (WHL)	59	15	16	31	26
Adam Klapka	26	6-8	235	Right	Praha, Cze.	Free Agent: signed 5/16/22	Calgary	79	6	12	18	112
Aidan Lane	19	6-1	193	Right	Mississauga, Ont.	176th overall (2025)	Harvard (ECAC)	34	6	7	13	18
Alan Shaikhlislamov	18	6-0	190	Left	Izhevsk, Rus.	55th overall (2026)	Ufa Jr. (Rus.)	31	18	17	35	15
Maxim Tsyplakov	28	6-3	203	Left	Moscow, Rus.	Trade: NJ 6/23/26	NY Islanders/New Jersey	49	2	2	4	6

CAROLINA HURRICANES

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2025-26 NUMBERS

RECORD
53-22-7 (.689)

OVERTIME
9-3

SHOOTOUT
5-4

OVERALL
2nd

OFFENSE
3.55 GPG (2nd)

DEFENSE
2.88 GAA (6th)

POWER PLAY
24.9% (4th)

PENALTY KILL
80.5% (11th)

EXPECTED GF/60
3.15 (2nd)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.49 (8th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
S. Aho (19:37)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
K. Miller (22:24)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Rod Brind'Amour

GM
Eric Tulsky

CAPTAIN
Jordan Staal

ARENA
Lenovo Center

CAPACITY
18,680

AHL AFFILIATE
Chicago Wolves

ECHL AFFILIATE
Greensboro Gargoyles

BY LUKE DECOCK

TWENTY YEARS AFTER ROD Brind'Amour lifted the Stanley Cup as a player, he did it again as a coach, with Jordan Staal echoing Brind'Amour's leadership as captain. The first team since 1981 to win at least one playoff round eight years in a row, the Carolina Hurricanes finally got over the top – even if they, once again, needed two goalies to do it.

As Brind'Amour, GM Eric Tulsky and owner Tom Dundon celebrate the success of their blend of analytics and culture, the franchise is positioned to remain among the NHL's elite, with an enviable cap situation and young talent with room to improve in Logan Stankoven, Jackson Blake and Alexander Nikishin. Besides Nikishin, who remained an RFA as the calendar flipped to August, and the departed Frederik Andersen, every player who appeared in the final against Vegas is under contract. And thanks to only playing 19 playoff games, this team won't suffer from the usual wear and tear that a Cup run typically induces.

OFFENSE

An offense that revolved around Sebastian Aho, Andrei Svechnikov, Nikolaj Ehlers and Seth Jarvis during the regular season blossomed with depth in the post-season thanks to massive contributions from Stankoven, Blake, Staal and Taylor Hall. The Hurricanes once again have strength up front, with Aho established as a premier two-way center and Jarvis growing into a multi-dimensional threat. Ehlers made an immediate impact as a free agent,

BOB FRID-IMAGN IMAGES

DAVID KIROUAC-IMAGN IMAGES

while Stankoven made a smooth transition to center to fill a longstanding void. The Hurricanes have been an elite shot- and chance-generating team under Brind'Amour and proved they could convert those chances into goals in the playoffs. There's still room for improvement, though. Svechnikov, in particular, may have a higher ceiling, while Jarvis, Blake and Stankoven are all 24 or younger.

DEFENSE

K'Andre Miller was the missing link for what was already one of the NHL's most versatile defenses, as he is mobile enough to play Brind'Amour's man-to-man defensive system and skilled enough to initiate the Hurricanes' high-paced offense. Don't expect any slippage on the blueline. Jaccob Slavin may be the NHL's best defensive defenseman, and Shayne Gostisbehere deftly quarterbacks the top power-play unit. Miller, Sean Walker and Jalen Chatfield are two-way threats, and Nikishin only figures to improve in his second full season.

GOALTENDING

If there's one area where the Hurricanes may have decisions to make, it's in goal, where Andersen moves on after giving way to Brandon Bussi in the Cup final. A waiver claim just before the start of the season, Bussi was a revelation but will have to prove it wasn't a fluke. Pyotr Kochetkov has long been the Hurricanes' goalie of the future, but injuries and inconsistency have delayed his rise. At 27, this may finally be his time to shine.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Hurricanes have been one of the NHL's elite penalty-killing teams for years. However, they now have a power play to match, with the man advantage finishing fourth in the league after a mid-season adjustment to put Staal out for faceoffs and occupy space in front of the net. Gostisbehere can make plays, but the Hurricanes' success revolves around the skill of Aho, Jarvis, Ehlers and Svechnikov. The Hurricanes' PK slipped a bit last season, but they still led the NHL in shorthanded goals and clicked along at 91.5 percent in the playoffs.

INTANGIBLES

The question that dogged the Hurricanes for years was whether their high-pressure style and analytical roster-building could work as well in the playoffs as it did during the regular season. Their post-season run put an end to that concern. Now, the challenge shifts to defending their title.

The Hockey News CUP ODDS 9/1

ROOKIES

With Jarvis and Eric Robinson expected to miss the start of the season after undergoing off-season surgeries, Bradly Nadeau and Felix Unger Sorum, both of whom helped AHL Chicago to the Calder Cup final, are in position for NHL auditions. Charlie Cerrato could get a look as well.

X-FACTOR

The Hurricanes were driven by years of failure and players, such as Andersen and Hall, still chasing a Cup late in their careers. With triumph secured, will the Hurricanes still have the same motivation? Given the way they play, anything less than 100 percent commitment could be disastrous.

THE BRASS

Dundon has rankled the hockey establishment, and the same people have questioned whether a former hockey blogger like Tulsky could build a champion. Ultimately, they got it done their way. Brind'Amour will maintain a strong voice in roster decisions. With cap space on hand, the Hurricanes can continue to sniff around every potential big deal. Winning a Cup won't change that. H

DEPTH CHART | 2026-27

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Nikolaj Ehlers	1. Sebastian Aho	1. Andrei Svechnikov
2. Taylor Hall	2. Logan Stankoven	2. Seth Jarvis +
3. Jordan Martinook	3. Jordan Staal	3. Jackson Blake
4. William Carrier	4. Mark Jankowski	4. Eric Robinson +
5. Nicolas Deslauriers	5. Jesperi Kotkaniemi	5. Bradly Nadeau

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Jaccob Slavin	6. Alexander Nikishin	1. Brandon Bussi
2. K'Andre Miller	7. Joel Nystrom	2. Pyotr Kochetkov
3. Sean Walker	8. Juuso Valimaki	3. Cayden Primeau
4. Shayne Gostisbehere	9. Charles-Alexis Legault	
5. Jalen Chatfield	10. Noel Fransen	

+ INJURED

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Frederik Andersen, G; Mike Reilly, D

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Bradly Nadeau
Pos LW **Age** 21
2025-26 Chicago (AHL)
Pure goal-scorer is knocking on door of NHL lineup. He's a future power-play triggerman.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

2. Semyon Frolov
Pos G **Age** 19
2025-26 Spartak Moscow Jr. (Rus.)
An injury-limited season halted development, but he oozes athletic upside and potential.
Expected NHL Arrival '31-32

3. William Hakansson
Pos D **Age** 18
2025-26 Lulea (SHL)
Big and strong with projectable mobility. Makes up for lack of output with defensive IQ.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

4. Charlie Cerrato
Pos C **Age** 21
2025-26 Penn State (Big Ten)
Representing NCAA at Spengler Cup was valuable experience. He's headed to the AHL next.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

5. Wiggo Sorensson
Pos C **Age** 18
2025-26 Boro/Vetlanda (Swe.4)
Speedy, scoring center has stood out at every major competition over past two campaigns.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

6. Dominik Badinka
Pos D **Age** 20
2025-26 Chicago (AHL)
Thrived as AHL rookie thanks to safe, smart game. Contributes most off the scoresheet.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

7. Nikita Artamonov
Pos LW **Age** 20
2025-26 Nizhnekamsk (KHL)
Drastic decline in production, but Canes are banking on high-energy winger rediscovering game.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

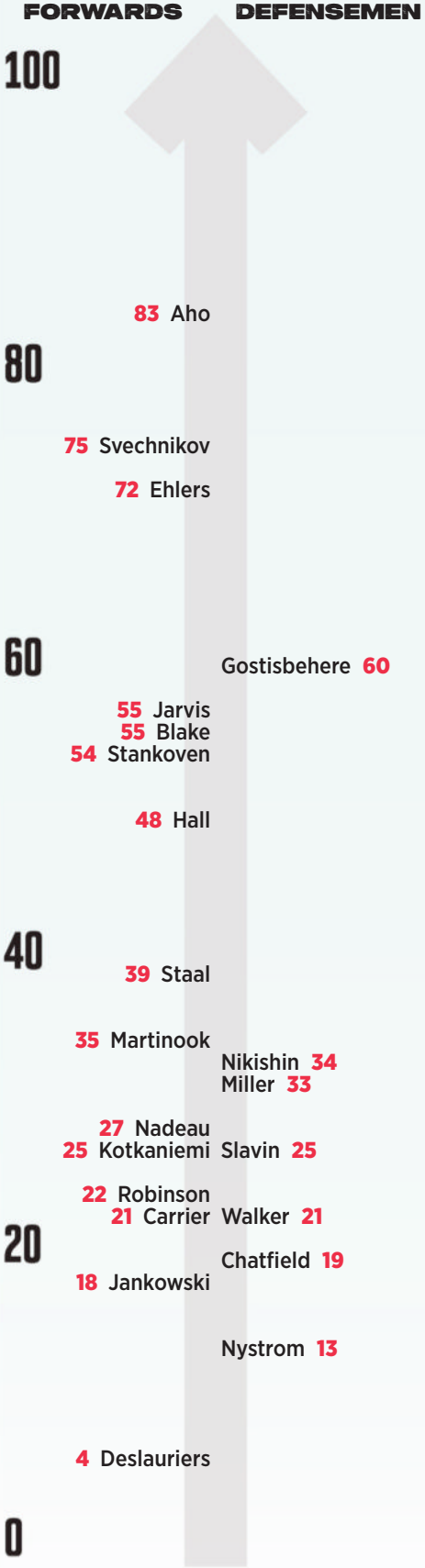
8. Felix Unger Sorum
Pos RW **Age** 21
2025-26 Chicago (AHL)
Move to wing led to offensive outburst. Silky setup man finished sixth in AHL scoring.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

9. Justin Poirier
Pos RW **Age** 20
2025-26 Maine (HE)
Late-bloomer potential, as he showcased maturity and scoring touch following NCAA move.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

10. Ivan Ryabkin
Pos C **Age** 19
2025-26 Chicago (AHL)
Tantalizing, attacking skill set. Needs to refine off-puck details to maximize potential.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

POINTS-O-METER

2026-27 PROJECTIONS



SCHEDULE

Tue, Sept 29	vs Florida	5:00 PM
Fri, Oct 2	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 3	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 6	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 8	vs Vancouver	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 10	@ Chicago	7:00 PM
Sun, Oct 11	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 13	vs Washington	6:45 PM
Sat, Oct 17	@ Winnipeg	3:30 PM
Sun, Oct 18	@ Calgary	8:00 PM
Tue, Oct 20	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Thu, Oct 22	@ Edmonton	9:00 PM
Sat, Oct 24	@ St. Louis	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 27	vs Boston	8:00 PM
Thu, Oct 29	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Sun, Nov 1	vs Winnipeg	1:00 PM
Tue, Nov 3	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Thu, Nov 5	@ NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 7	vs Chicago	8:00 PM
Thu, Nov 12	@ Seattle*	12:00 PM
Sat, Nov 14	vs Seattle*	1:00 PM
Thu, Nov 19	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 21	vs Edmonton	1:00 PM
Sun, Nov 22	@ NY Rangers	1:00 PM
Wed, Nov 25	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 28	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Mon, Nov 30	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 3	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 5	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 8	vs NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 11	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 13	vs Boston	1:00 PM
Tue, Dec 15	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 17	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Fri, Dec 18	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Mon, Dec 21	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Sat, Dec 26	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 28	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 29	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 31	@ Detroit	2:00 PM
Sat, Jan 2	vs Nashville	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 5	vs St. Louis	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 7	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 9	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 12	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 14	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Fri, Jan 15	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 17	vs Vegas	6:00 PM
Thu, Jan 21	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 23	vs Anaheim	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 25	@ Ottawa	7:30 PM
Tue, Jan 26	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 28	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 30	vs Los Angeles	7:00 PM
Tue, Feb 9	vs Colorado	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 11	vs Minnesota	7:30 PM
Sat, Feb 13	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Tue, Feb 16	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 18	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Fri, Feb 19	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Sun, Feb 21	vs NY Rangers	1:00 PM
Tue, Feb 23	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 25	vs San Jose	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 27	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 1	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Wed, Mar 3	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Fri, Mar 5	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 7	vs Utah	1:00 PM
Tue, Mar 9	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Fri, Mar 12	vs Calgary	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 13	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 16	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Thu, Mar 18	@ Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Sat, Mar 20	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Tue, Mar 23	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Thu, Mar 25	vs Dallas	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 27	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 29	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 30	@ NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Fri, Apr 2	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 3	vs New Jersey	5:00 PM
Mon, Apr 5	vs Philadelphia	2:00 PM
Wed, Apr 7	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 10	@ Florida	6:00 PM

*Global Series in Finland

ROSS DETTMAN/CHICAGO WOLVES

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

CAROLINA HURRICANES

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP	
Brandon Bussi	28	6-4	218	Right	Sound Beach, N.Y.	Waivers: Fla 10/5/25	Carolina	39	31-6-2	2.47	.895	
Ryder Fetterolf	18	6-0	184	Left	Chicago, Ill.	125th overall (2026)	Ottawa (OHL)	41	29-9-3	2.07	.923	
Semyon Frolov	19	6-3	203	Left	Togliatti, Rus.	41st overall (2025)	Spartak Moscow/Spartak MAH Jr. (Rus.)	9	4-3-0	2.38	.914	
Zachary Jovanovski	18	6-3	185	Left	Windsor, Ont.	165th overall (2026)	Guelph (OHL)	52	25-20-4	3.39	.890	
Ruslan Khazheyev	21	6-6	211	Left	Chelyabinsk, Rus.	158th overall (2023)	Greensboro (ECHL)	41	8-27-4	3.52	.894	
Pyotr Kochetkov	27	6-3	196	Left	Penza, Rus.	36th overall (2019)	Carolina	9	6-2-0	2.33	.899	
Cayden Primeau	27	6-3	205	Left	Farmington Hills, Mich.	Waivers: Tor 11/8/25	Chicago (AHL)	39	21-11-7	2.41	.916	
Zach Sawchenko	28	6-1	187	Left	Calgary, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/4/26	Cleveland (AHL)	29	14-10-3	3.05	.880	-
DEFENSEMEN	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2025-26**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Dominik Badinka	20	6-3	199	Right	Chomutov, Cze.	34th overall (2024)	Chicago (AHL)	68	6	8	14	16
Roman Bausov	19	6-5	179	Right	St. Petersburg, Rus.	87th overall (2025)	Dynamo St. Petersburg Jr. (Rus.)	18	1	5	6	6
Jalen Chatfield	30	6-1	209	Right	Ypsilanti, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 7/30/21	Carolina	72	2	15	17	18
Noel Fransen	20	6-0	190	Left	Karlstad, Swe.	69th overall (2024)	Karlskoga (Swe.2)	38	6	8	14	14
Shayne Gostisbehere	33	5-11	183	Left	Pembroke Pines, Fla.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Carolina	55	13	37	50	22
Vladimir Grudinin	22	5-10	158	Left	Angarsk, Rus.	156th overall (2022)	Cherepovets (KHL)	53	5	6	11	16
William Hakansson	18	6-4	207	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	51st overall (2026)	Lulea (SHL)	22	0	2	2	8
Aleksi Heimosalmi	23	6-0	181	Right	Pori, Fin.	44th overall (2021)	Chicago (AHL)	52	4	13	17	40
Timur Kol	20	6-4	204	Left	Moscow, Rus.	168th overall (2024)	Dynamo Moscow Jr. (Rus.)	35	13	16	29	15
Charles Alexis Legault	23	6-4	220	Right	Montreal, Que.	139th overall (2023)	Chicago (AHL)	24	3	5	8	48
Kurban Limatov	19	6-3	198	Left	Moscow, Rus.	67th overall (2025)	Dynamo Moscow Jr. (Rus.)	46	12	18	30	30
K'Andre Miller	26	6-5	210	Left	St. Paul, Minn.	Trade: NYR 7/1/25	Carolina	72	8	29	37	56
Bryce Montgomery	23	6-4	220	Right	Washington, D.C.	170th overall (2021)	Greensboro (ECHL)	28	1	4	5	34
Alexander Nikishin	24	6-3	218	Left	Orel, Rus.	69th overall (2020)	Carolina	81	11	22	33	33
Joel Nystrom	24	5-11	170	Right	Karlstad, Swe.	219th overall (2021)	Carolina	38	1	9	10	6
Alexander Pelevin	22	6-1	183	Left	Balakhna, Rus.	205th overall (2022)	Nizhny Novgorod (Rus. 2)	46	2	9	11	37
Ronan Seeley	24	6-0	201	Left	Yellowknife, N.W.T.	208th overall (2020)	Chicago (AHL)	69	11	12	23	8
Roman Shokhrin	20	6-5	205	Left	Nizhny Novgorod, Rus.	184th overall (2024)	Loko Yaroslavl Jr. (Rus.)	51	5	12	17	14
Alexander Siryatsky	20	6-2	159	Left	Omsk, Rus.	124th overall (2024)	Magnitogorsk (KHL)	37	2	3	5	14
Jaccob Slavin	32	6-3	207	Left	Denver, Colo.	120th overall (2012)	Carolina	39	1	7	8	4
Juuso Valimaki	27	6-2	201	Left	Tampere, Fin.	Trade: Uth 1/5/26	Tucson/Chicago (AHL)	27	7	16	23	12
Sean Walker	31	5-11	191	Right	Keswick, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Carolina	81	9	22	31	59
CENTERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2025-26**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Sebastian Aho	29	6-0	189	Left	Rauma. Fin.	35th overall (2015)	Carolina	79	27	53	80	46
Charlie Cerrato	21	6-0	190	Left	Great Falls, Va.	49th overall (2025)	Penn State (Big Ten)	23	7	20	27	20
Mark Jankowski	32	6-4	200	Left	Hamilton, Ont.	Trade: Nsh 3/7/25	Carolina	68	11	10	21	16
Seth Jarvis	24	5-10	180	Right	Winnipeg, Man.	13th overall (2020)	Carolina	71	32	34	66	23
Jesperi Kotkaniemi	26	6-3	212	Left	Pori, Fin.	Free Agent: signed 9/5/21	Carolina	42	2	7	9	8
Justin Robidas	23	5-8	176	Right	Plano, Texas	147th overall (2021)	Chicago (AHL)	58	23	37	60	14
Ivan Ryabkin	19	5-11	185	Left	Balakovo, Rus.	62nd overall (2025)	Chicago (AHL)	31	1	9	10	60
Wiggo Sorensson	18	5-10	180	Left	Vetlanda, Swe.	61st overall (2026)	Boro/Vetlanda (Swe.4)	29	20	18	38	14
Jordan Staal	38	6-4	220	Left	Thunder Bay, Ont.	Trade: Pit 6/22/12	Carolina	75	20	16	36	29
Logan Stankoven	23	5-8	165	Right	Kamloops, B.C.	Trade: Dal 3/7/25	Carolina	81	21	23	44	25
LEFT WINGERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2025-26**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Nikita Artamonov	20	5-11	187	Left	Nizhnekamsk, Rus.	50th overall (2024)	Niz. Novgorod/Nizhnekamsk (KHL)	53	3	7	10	12
Fyodor Avramov	20	6-3	190	Right	St. Petersburg, Rus.	188th overall (2024)	Sochi (KHL)	36	2	0	2	6
Michael Berchild	18	5-10	180	Left	Excelsior, Minn.	105th overall (2026)	USA U18 (NTDP)	58	23	30	53	24
William Carrier	31	6-2	214	Left	LaSalle, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Carolina	70	7	11	18	18
Nicolas Deslauriers	35	6-1	218	Left	LaSalle, Que.	Trade: Phi 3/6/26	Philadelphia/Carolina	31	0	2	2	38
Nikolaj Ehlers	30	6-0	168	Left	Aalborg, Den.	Free Agent: signed 7/3/25	Carolina	82	26	45	71	14
Taylor Hall	34	6-1	210	Left	Calgary, Alta.	Trade: Chi 1/24/25	Carolina	80	18	30	48	44
Juha Jaaska	28	6-0	210	Left	Helsinki, Fin.	Free Agent: signed 4/9/24	Chicago (AHL)			DNP		
Andrey Krutov	20	5-11	174	Left	Togliatti, Rus.	220th overall (2024)	Niz. Novgorod/Khabarovsk (KHL)	24	2	2	4	2
Jordan Martinook	34	6-1	208	Left	Brandon, Man.	Trade: Ari 5/3/18	Carolina	77	12	17	29	35
Timur Mukhanov	21	5-7	178	Right	Glazov, Rus.	163rd overall (2023)	Cherepovets/Niz. Novgorod (KHL)	41	5	2	7	14
Bradly Nadeau	21	5-11	180	Right	St-Francois de Madaw, N.B.	30th overall (2023)	Chicago (AHL)	52	27	29	56	24
Viktor Neuchev	22	5-11	180	Left	Chelyabinsk, Rus.	Trade: Buf 1/24/26	Rochester/Chicago (AHL)	64	10	15	25	16
Viggo Nordlund	20	5-9	168	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	183rd overall (2025)	Oskarshamn (Swe.2)	52	12	14	26	18
Alexander Perevalov	22	6-0	191	Right	Mezhdurechensk, Rus.	71st overall (2022)	Novokuznetsk (Rus.2)	58	20	14	34	41
Eric Robinson	31	6-2	220	Left	Bellmawr, N.J.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Carolina	67	12	6	18	8
Gleb Trikozov	22	6-2	201	Right	Omsk, Rus.	60th overall (2022)	Chicago (AHL)	46	7	4	11	33
Oskar Vuollet	20	5-11	180	Left	Skelleftea, Swe.	133rd overall (2024)	Skelleftea (SHL)	51	3	4	7	6
RIGHT WINGERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2025-26**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Jackson Blake	23	5-11	185	Right	Fargo, N.D.	109th overall (2021)	Carolina	81	22	31	53	40
Filip Ekberg	19	5-10	170	Left	Uppsala, Swe.	221st overall (2025)	Ottawa (OHL)	59	24	22	46	14
Michael Emerson	22	6-1	192	Right	Yorktown Heights, N.Y.	190th overall (2023)	Merrimack (HE)	37	4	5	9	8
Noel Gunler	24	6-2	185	Right	Lulea, Swe.	41st overall (2020)	Chicago (AHL)	71	15	20	35	56
Zachary Lansard	18	6-0	172	Right	Winnipeg, Man.	68th overall (2026)	Regina (WHL)	68	24	32	56	33
Jayden Perron	21	5-9	168	Right	Winnipeg, Man.	94th overall (2023)	Michigan (Big Ten)	40	18	23	41	8
Justin Poirier	20	5-7	185	Right	Valleyfield, Que.	156th overall (2024)	Maine (HE)	27	18	11	29	12
Alexander Rykov	21	6-0	176	Left	Magnitogorsk, Rus.	100th overall (2023)	Chelyabinsk (KHL)	56	8	7	15	14
Andrei Svechnikov	26	6-3	200	Left	Barnaul, Rus.	2nd overall (2018)	Carolina	79	31	39	70	66
Felix Unger Sorum	21	6-0	190	Right	Trondheim, Nor.	62nd overall (2023)	Chicago (AHL)	72	17	49	66	20
Stanislav Yarovoi	23	5-11	190	Right	Tuymazy, Rus.	126th overall (2023)	Voskresensk (Rus.2)	44	8	11	19	8

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS

2025-26 NUMBERS

RECORD
29-39-14 (.439)

OVERTIME
4-9

SHOOTOUT
3-5

OVERALL
31st

OFFENSE
2.56 GPG (30th)

DEFENSE
3.29 GAA (27th)

POWER PLAY
16.9% (29th)

PENALTY KILL
83.6% (2nd)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.21 (32nd)

EXPECTED GA/60
3.02 (32nd)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
C. Bedard (20:52)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
A. Vlasic (21:08)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Jeff Blashill

GM
Kyle Davidson

CAPTAIN
Vacant

ARENA
United Center

CAPACITY
20,243

AHL AFFILIATE
Rockford IceHogs

ECHL AFFILIATE
Indy Fuel

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BY JARED CLINTON

TWO THINGS CAN BE true at once. Yes, Chicago took a step toward respectability last season. But that the Blackhawks finished 31st means those strides were the equivalent of a participation trophy that's been smashed to bits.

Counterintuitive as it seems, it's worth taking the standings out of the equation. In truth, there were some significant victories under coach Jeff Blashill. The 11-point year-over-year improvement is where the eye is first drawn, but the Blackhawks also won 13 one-goal games and had 22 one-goal losses. For an outfit often hanging on for dear life over the two campaigns prior, last season was an improvement by virtue of putting up a fight most nights. Is a wild-card spot a possibility? Statistically, sure. Realistically, not really. But staying in the hunt would be a step forward.

OFFENSE

Let's waste no time getting to the headline: Patrick Kane is back. Three-plus seasons after his departure, the Blackhawks have brought back the future Hall of Famer. Whereas his first go-round in Chicago was about winning championships, the next two seasons are about shaping the next generation. In large part, that means offering guidance to Connor Bedard. No player but Kane, selected first overall by the Blackhawks in 2007, can fully understand the expectations put on Bedard. But it's not only Bedard who will benefit. Frank Nazar, Oliver Moore and Nick Lardis are among the up-and-comers who stand to learn from Kane.

SERGEI BELSKI-IMAGN IMAGES

That Kane has shown he's still able to chip in about 20 goals and 60 points is simply the cherry on top. That's necessary scoring punch, particularly as Tyler Bertuzzi repeating his 32-goal, 58-point output is unlikely. Teuvo Teravainen also mustered just 35 points last season.

DEFENSE

Bowen Byram sought opportunity and will get plenty in the Windy City. After his blockbuster acquisition, Byram will be the fulcrum of the Blackhawks' back end. Primarily, that means generating offense from the blueline, as he's set to drive play on the top pairing and quarterback the top power play. But Byram will also be asked to log some of the toughest defensive minutes of his career. His success will go a long way in determining what heights Chicago reaches. Relieving a modicum of pressure will be Ian Cole. He has triple the experience of any rearguard on Chicago's depth chart, and being able to serve as a defensive release valve for young blueliners will aid in their development.

GOALTENDING

Only three goaltenders saw more rubber than Spencer Knight last season, and while his save percentage wasn't among the league's best, the 25-year-old acquitted himself spectacularly. To wit, his goals saved above average per 60 minutes at five-a-side was in the same company as Mackenzie Blackwood, Jakub Dobes and Jake Oettinger, and, in all, Knight had the 24th-best GSAA total among all keepers. If the Blackhawks can provide more defensive solidity, Knight should flourish.

SPECIAL TEAMS

A marked improvement on the penalty kill was offset by a declining power play last season, but a strong baseline for the former is more important than the latter. Cole, who played huge PK minutes in Utah, will be central to fixing the shorthanded woes, while Cole Smith, who ranked 55th among forwards by playing 40.6 percent of his teams' PK minutes last season, will also play a big role.

INTANGIBLES

The Blackhawks were neither overly physical nor all too willing to take their lumps, as they finished with the fewest hits and fifth-fewest shot blocks last season. It's Blashill's job to imbue his charges with a sense of identity and a willingness to sacrifice. Goals win games, but the Blackhawks must become more stubborn and pesky.

The Hockey News CUP ODDS 75/1

ROOKIES

Anton Frondell's late-season introduction got that hype train rolling, but the unknown quantity that is Roman Kantserov has Blackhawks fans salivating. Kantserov, who turns 22 in September, led the KHL in goals last season and tied for ninth in scoring. Despite his 5-foot-9 frame, he brings notable tenacity. If his NHL transition is seamless, he upgrades the top six.

X-FACTOR

It was a nine-game sample, but Rinzel looked like a future top-pairing blueliner upon his entry to the NHL in 2024-25. Last season, however, was far more turbulent. But if Rinzel recaptures some of that magic and builds on his first full pro campaign, it bodes well for the blueline now and in the future.

THE BRASS

Being handed a multi-year extension makes clear that Blackhawks ownership is pleased with GM Kyle Davidson. That Davidson parlayed the newfound job security into his boldest summer yet is indicative of his belief that the teardown is complete. Whether he's right or not will determine how hot his seat is by season's end.

DEPTH CHART | 2026-27

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Tyler Bertuzzi	1. Connor Bedard	1. Patrick Kane
2. Teuvo Teravainen	2. Frank Nazar	2. Ryan Greene
3. Cole Smith	3. Anton Frondell	3. Nick Lardis
4. Andrew Mangiapane	4. Oliver Moore	4. Ryan Donato
5. Jordan Greenway	5. Dominic Toninato	5. Roman Kantserov

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Bowen Byram	6. Sam Rinzel	1. Spencer Knight
2. Alex Vlasic	7. Ethan Del Mastro	2. Arvid Soderblom
3. Artyom Levshunov	8. Kevin Korchinski	3. Drew Commesso
4. Ian Cole	9. Connor Mackey	INJURED
5. Wyatt Kaiser	10. Jake Furlong	INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Ilya Mikheyev, RW; Andre Burakovsky, LW; Louis Crevier, D; Matt Grzelcyk, D; Sam Lafferty, C

SERGEI BELSKI-IMAGN IMAGES

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Anton Frondell
Pos C **Age** 19
2025-26 Djurgarden (SHL)
Led SHL rookies with 20 goals. Settled in well while Blackhawks experimented after his NHL arrival.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

2. Roman Kantserov
Pos RW **Age** 22
2025-26 Magnitogorsk (KHL)
Scoring highlighted breakout KHL campaign, but his 200-foot game was a welcome surprise.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

3. Sacha Boisvert
Pos C **Age** 20
2025-26 Boston University (HE)
Disappointing season at BU but scored first NHL goal in fifth game. Needs AHL minutes.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

4. Marek Vanacker
Pos LW **Age** 20
2025-26 Brantford (OHL)
Led OHL with 47 goals. Sharp-shooting winger can create his own chances with two-way play.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

5. Kevin Korchinski
Pos D **Age** 22
2025-26 Rockford (AHL)
Concerns over development plateau, but he's worked hard to get most out of big AHL minutes.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

6. Vaclav Nestrasil
Pos RW **Age** 19
2025-26 UMass (HE)
Impressive freshman NCAA campaign and an integral part of Czechia's run to WJC silver.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

7. Xavier Villeneuve
Pos D **Age** 19
2025-26 Blain.-Bois. (QMJHL)
Has hallmarks of the modern agile, undersized 'D' and offensive vision to run a power play.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

8. Ryan Roobroeck
Pos LW **Age** 19
2025-26 Niagara (OHL)
Solid frame and scoring touch, but stock slipped due to misgivings about defensive aptitude.
Expected NHL Arrival '30-31

9. Mason West
Pos C **Age** 19
2025-26 Fargo (USHL)
At 6-foot-6, he powers his way to the net. Greatest asset is size, but he's got a shot, too.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

10. Samu Alalauri
Pos D **Age** 18
2025-26 Pelicans Jr. (Fin.)
Game is built from skating stride out. Ability to sort defensive game will determine ceiling.
Expected NHL Arrival '30-31

POINTS-O-METER

2026-27 PROJECTIONS

	FORWARDS	DEFENSEMEN
100		
80	71 Bedard	
60		Byram 59
	57 Frondell	
	49 Nazar 49 Teravainen 48 Kantserov 45 Lardis 43 Bertuzzi	
40		
	34 Mangiapane 32 Donato	Korchinski 32 Levshunov 32
	28 Moore 26 Greene	Rinzel 26 Vlasic 25 Kaiser 22
20	20 Smith 19 Greenway	
		Cole 17
	10 Slaggert	
		Del Mastro 8
0		

SCHEDULE

Tue, Sept 29	@ Vegas	10:30 PM
Thu, Oct 1	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Sat, Oct 3	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 6	vs St. Louis	8:00 PM
Thu, Oct 8	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Sat, Oct 10	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 13	vs Pittsburgh	8:00 PM
Thu, Oct 15	vs Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Sat, Oct 17	vs Dallas	7:00 PM
Fri, Oct 23	vs Montreal	8:00 PM
Sun, Oct 25	vs Florida	3:00 PM
Tue, Oct 27	vs Los Angeles	8:00 PM
Thu, Oct 29	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 31	@ Boston	1:00 PM
Mon, Nov 2	vs Colorado	8:00 PM
Wed, Nov 4	@ Florida	7:30 PM
Thu, Nov 5	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 7	@ Carolina	8:00 PM
Thu, Nov 12	vs Buffalo	8:00 PM
Sat, Nov 14	vs Winnipeg	3:30 PM
Tue, Nov 17	vs Toronto	7:30 PM
Thu, Nov 19	vs Columbus	8:00 PM
Sat, Nov 21	@ Calgary	3:30 PM
Sun, Nov 22	@ Vancouver	8:00 PM
Wed, Nov 25	@ Seattle	9:40 PM
Fri, Nov 27	vs NY Rangers	5:30 PM
Sun, Nov 29	vs Minnesota	3:00 PM
Mon, Nov 30	@ Winnipeg	7:30 PM
Thu, Dec 3	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Fri, Dec 4	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Sun, Dec 6	vs Edmonton	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 8	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 10	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Sat, Dec 12	vs Utah	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 18	@ Ottawa*	1:00 PM
Sun, Dec 20	vs Ottawa*	8:00 AM
Sun, Dec 27	vs Philadelphia	3:00 PM
Tue, Dec 29	vs Vegas	8:00 PM
Fri, Jan 1	vs Boston	3:00 PM
Sat, Jan 2	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Mon, Jan 4	@ Montreal	7:30 PM
Thu, Jan 7	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 9	@ New Jersey	12:00 PM
Sun, Jan 10	@ Philadelphia	7:30 PM
Tue, Jan 12	vs Utah	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 14	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 16	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 18	vs Calgary	8:30 PM
Wed, Jan 20	vs Dallas	9:30 PM
Fri, Jan 22	vs Vancouver	8:00 PM
Sun, Jan 24	vs Vegas	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 26	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 28	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sat, Jan 30	@ San Jose	4:00 PM
Wed, Feb 10	@ San Jose	10:00 PM
Thu, Feb 11	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sat, Feb 13	@ Los Angeles	6:00 PM
Wed, Feb 17	vs St. Louis	7:30 PM
Sat, Feb 20	vs Minnesota	3:00 PM
Sun, Feb 21	vs New Jersey	3:30 PM
Tue, Feb 23	vs NY Islanders	8:00 PM
Fri, Feb 26	vs Los Angeles	8:00 PM
Sun, Feb 28	vs Colorado	6:30 PM
Mon, Mar 1	vs Edmonton	8:30 PM
Wed, Mar 3	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Fri, Mar 5	@ Calgary	8:00 PM
Sat, Mar 6	@ Edmonton	10:00 PM
Mon, Mar 8	vs Tampa Bay	8:00 PM
Wed, Mar 10	vs Washington	9:30 PM
Sat, Mar 13	@ Colorado	6:00 PM
Sun, Mar 14	vs Anaheim	4:30 PM
Tue, Mar 16	vs San Jose	8:00 PM
Fri, Mar 19	@ Utah	10:00 PM
Sun, Mar 21	@ Colorado	5:00 PM
Tue, Mar 23	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Thu, Mar 25	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Fri, Mar 26	vs Nashville	8:00 PM
Sun, Mar 28	vs Seattle	3:00 PM
Tue, Mar 30	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 1	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Sat, Apr 3	@ Dallas	6:00 PM
Tue, Apr 6	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Thu, Apr 8	vs Nashville	8:00 PM
Sat, Apr 10	vs Seattle	6:00 PM

*Global Series in Germany

BRAD PENNER-IMAGN IMAGES

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Stanislav Berezhnoy	23	6-4	218	Left	Novokuznetsk, Rus.	Free Agent: signed 7/17/25	Rockford (AHL)	16	5-10-1	3.30	.886
Drew Commesso	24	6-2	180	Left	Norwell, Mass.	46th overall (2020)	Rockford (AHL)	37	13-20-3	3.08	.901
Adam Gajan	22	6-3	167	Left	Poprad, Svk.	35th overall (2023)	Minnesota-Duluth (NCHC)	33	19-13-1	2.25	.908
Ilya Kanarsky	21	6-3	180	Left	Moscow, Rus.	194th overall (2025)	Tula Region (Rus.2)	35	7-17-8	2.67	.922
Spencer Knight	25	6-3	191	Left	Darien, Conn.	Trade: Fla 3/1/25	Chicago	55	19-25-11	2.82	.902
Arvid Soderblom	27	6-3	180	Left	Gothenburg, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 5/13/21	Chicago	26	8-13-3	3.80	.880

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Samu Alalauri	18	6-2	203	Right	Lahti, Fin.	66th overall (2026)	Pelicans Jr. (Fin.)	40	6	19	25	4
Dylan Anhorn	27	6-0	190	Left	Calgary, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Manitoba (AHL)	46	3	14	17	18
Bowen Byram	25	6-1	205	Left	Cranbrook, B.C.	Trade: Buf 6/23/26	Buffalo	82	11	31	42	48
Ian Cole	37	6-1	237	Left	Ann Arbor, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Utah	82	3	20	23	50
Ashton Cumby	21	6-5	216	Left	Bonnyville, Alta.	162nd overall (2025)	Seattle (WHL)	59	4	13	17	92
Ethan Del Mastro	23	6-4	210	Left	Burlington, Ont.	105th overall (2021)	Rockford (AHL)	45	2	16	18	34
Ryan Ellis	35	5-10	180	Right	Hamilton, Ont.	Trade: SJ 1/8/26	San Jose/Chicago			DNP		
Jake Furlong	22	6-1	189	Left	Labrador City, Nfld.	Trade: SJ 1/8/26	San Jose/Rockford (AHL)	42	3	8	11	37
Taige Harding	24	6-6	235	Left	Glasgow, Gbr.	91st overall (2021)	Rockford (AHL)	47	3	6	9	105
Ty Henry	20	6-2	197	Left	Montreal, Que.	163rd overall (2024)	Erie (OHL)			DNP		
Alexander Ivanov	18	6-2	181	Left	Moscow, Rus.	194th overall (2026)	Kazan (Rus.2)	36	0	3	3	6
Wyatt Kaiser	24	6-0	190	Left	Andover, Minn.	81st overall (2020)	Chicago	77	6	11	17	34
Kevin Korchinski	22	6-1	185	Left	Saskatoon, Sask.	7th overall (2022)	Rockford (AHL)	53	2	24	26	48
Artyom Levshunov	20	6-2	208	Right	Zhlobin, Blr.	2nd overall (2024)	Chicago	68	2	22	24	44
Connor Mackey	30	6-3	205	Left	Tower Lakes, Ill.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Hartford (AHL)	62	5	13	18	87
Janne Peltonen	21	6-3	174	Left	Oulu, Fin.	195th overall (2023)	Karpat (Liiga)	14	1	1	2	0
Derrick Pouliot	32	6-0	198	Left	Estevan, Sask.	Trade: NYR 3/6/26	Hartford/Rockford (AHL)	68	2	32	34	34
Sam Rinzel	22	6-4	194	Right	Chanhassen, Minn.	25th overall (2022)	Chicago	54	4	10	14	44
Xavier Villeneuve	19	5-11	162	Left	Laval, Que.	34th overall (2026)	Blainville-Boisbriand (QMJHL)	37	6	32	38	35
Alex Vlasic	25	6-6	217	Left	Wilmette, Ill.	43rd overall (2019)	Chicago	81	2	19	21	17

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Connor Bedard	21	5-10	190	Right	North Vancouver, B.C.	1st overall (2023)	Chicago	69	30	45	75	50
Sacha Boisvert	20	6-2	176	Left	Trois-Rivieres, Que.	18th overall (2024)	Boston University (HE)	26	3	14	17	28
Ryan Donato	30	6-0	190	Left	Boston, Mass.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Chicago	82	15	15	30	46
Jiri Felcman	21	6-4	198	Left	Hradec Kralove, Cze.	93rd overall (2023)	SCL (Sui.)	52	3	17	20	10
Anton Frondell	19	6-1	198	Left	Trangsund, Swe.	3rd overall (2025)	Djurgarden (SHL)	43	20	8	28	16
Ryan Greene	22	6-1	195	Right	St. John's, Nfld.	57th overall (2022)	Chicago	81	12	17	29	14
Paul Ludwinski	22	5-11	172	Left	Toronto, Ont.	39th overall (2022)	Rockford (AHL)	3	1	1	2	2
Oliver Moore	21	5-11	188	Left	Mounds View, Minn.	19th overall (2023)	Chicago	51	5	14	19	19
John Mustard	20	6-1	180	Left	Newmarket, Ont.	67th overall (2024)	Providence (HE)	36	17	12	29	46
Frank Nazar	22	5-10	190	Right	Detroit, Mich.	13th overall (2022)	Chicago	66	15	26	41	26
William Sorbrand	18	6-3	203	Left	Sundsvall, Swe.	200th overall (2026)	Timra Jr. (Swe.)	28	10	8	18	41
Julius Sumpf	21	6-1	182	Left	Munich, Ger.	98th overall (2025)	Providence (HE)	36	4	17	21	8
Joel Svensson	21	6-1	185	Right	Oskarshamn, Swe.	138th overall (2024)	Oskarshamn (Swe.2)	51	6	14	20	31
Dominic Toninato	32	6-2	201	Left	Duluth, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Rockford (AHL)	52	16	27	43	57
Mason West	19	6-6	215	Right	Edina, Minn.	29th overall (2025)	Fargo (USHL)	38	10	15	25	12

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Tyler Bertuzzi	31	6-2	200	Left	Sudbury, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Chicago	79	32	26	58	42
Dillon Boucher	29	6-0	220	Left	Head Chezzetcook, N.S.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Rockford (AHL)	53	3	5	8	114
Jordan Greenway	29	6-6	231	Left	Canton, N.Y.	Trade: Buf 6/23/26	Buffalo	40	1	5	6	29
Gavin Hayes	22	6-1	177	Right	Ypsilanti, Mich.	66th overall (2022)	Rockford (AHL)	57	13	13	26	14
Parker Holmes	19	6-3	222	Left	Kingston, Ont.	107th overall (2025)	Brantford (OHL)	49	6	11	17	37
Nick Lardis	21	5-11	165	Left	Oakville, Ont.	67th overall (2023)	Chicago	41	10	5	15	10
Andrew Mangiapane	30	5-10	183	Left	Toronto, Ont.	Trade: Edm 3/4/26	Edmonton/Chicago	62	8	8	16	42
Connor Mylymok	26	6-1	205	Left	Jackson, Miss.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Rockford (AHL)	52	3	7	10	204
Ryan Roobroeck	19	6-3	209	Left	London, Ont.	35th overall (2026)	Niagara (OHL)	49	30	28	58	26
Samuel Savoie	22	5-10	189	Left	Dieppe, N.B.	81st overall (2022)	Rockford (AHL)	62	12	14	26	47
Landon Slaggert	24	6-0	180	Left	South Bend, Ind.	79th overall (2020)	Chicago	53	3	4	7	16
Cole Smith	30	6-3	195	Left	Brainerd, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Nashville/Vegas	63	8	4	12	40
Teuvo Teravainen	32	5-11	191	Left	Helsinki, Fin.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Chicago	75	14	21	35	6
Marek Vanacker	20	6-1	174	Left	London, Ont.	27th overall (2024)	Brantford (OHL)	60	47	35	82	33

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Nathan Behm	19	6-2	192	Right	Calgary, Alta.	66th overall (2025)	Kamloops (WHL)	67	38	48	86	41
Patrick Kane	37	5-10	176	Left	Buffalo, N.Y.	Free Agent: signed 7/23/26	Detroit	67	16	41	57	16
Roman Kantserov	22	5-9	176	Left	Magnitogorsk, Rus.	44th overall (2023)	Magnitogorsk (KHL)	63	36	28	64	57
Martin Misiak	22	6-2	194	Left	Banska Bystrica, Svk.	55th overall (2023)	Rockford (AHL)	63	4	11	15	29
Vaclav Nestrasil	19	6-5	187	Right	Prague, Cze.	25th overall (2025)	UMass (HE)	34	13	18	31	8
AJ Spellacy	20	6-2	195	Right	Cleveland, Ohio	72nd overall (2024)	Windsor (OHL)	51	13	19	32	63

COLORADO AVALANCHE

NATHAN MACKINNON

2025-26 NUMBERS

RECORD
55-16-11 (.738)

OVERTIME
3-5

SHOOTOUT
4-6

OVERALL
1st

OFFENSE
3.63 GPG (1st)

DEFENSE
2.40 GAA (1st)

POWER PLAY
17.1% (27th)

PENALTY KILL
84.6% (1st)

EXPECTED GF/60
3.21 (1st)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.48 (6th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
N. MacKinnon (22:16)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
C. Makar (24:51)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Jared Bednar

GM
Joe Sakic

CAPTAIN
Gabriel Landeskog

ARENA
Ball Arena

CAPACITY
18,007

AHL AFFILIATE
Colorado Eagles

ECHL AFFILIATE
New Mexico Goatheads

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BY EVAN RAWAL

A DOMINANT SIX-AND-A-HALF months of hockey from the Colorado Avalanche went right down the drain after a brutal week in the Western Conference final saw the Vegas Golden Knights send them home for the summer with a sweep.

Now, with a roster one year older, the Stanley Cup expectations are the same for an Avalanche team that will look slightly different this season. Valeri Nichushkin, Jack Drury and Ross Colton are out, traded because of a cap crunch. Replacing them are 34-year-old Jaden Schwartz and young forwards Fedor Svechkov and Zachary L'Heureux. The man making all these moves was not Chris MacFarland, who left to run the Nashville Predators. It was Joe Sakic, who stepped back into the GM role after transitioning to president of hockey operations in 2022.

OFFENSE

Scoring will not be a problem for the Avalanche, who led the NHL in goals last season. That shouldn't come as a surprise, as the team employs Nathan MacKinnon, Cale Makar and Martin Necas. MacKinnon led the NHL with 53 goals, Necas recorded his first 100-point season and Makar finished third among defensemen in scoring. The Avs' depth took a hit with the loss of Nichushkin, but there's still more than enough firepower on the roster to make Colorado an absolute beast in the offensive zone. A full season of Nazem Kadri and Nicolas Roy will help make

BOB FRID-IMAGN IMAGES

SERGEI BELSKI-IMAGN IMAGES

up for the loss of Nichushkin, but Colorado is particularly excited about the young L'Heureux, who plays on the edge.

DEFENSE

Sakic loved how his defense looked at the end of last season so much that he decided to bring them all back. Brett Kulak signed a five-year extension, and 41-year-old Brent Burns is returning for another year. The steady Noah Juulsen was brought in for additional depth, which the team lacked in 2025-26. Colorado allowed 23 fewer goals than the next closest team, so preventing goals won't be an issue, either. Makar and Devon Toews eat up the most minutes, but Sam Malinski was a breakout star last season, taking on a bigger role as the year progressed. Burns' game declined as the campaign went on, so the Avalanche will need to limit the ironman's minutes this year.

GOALTENDING

Scott Wedgewood is coming off a career year, one in which he led the NHL in save percentage and goals-against average among goaltenders who played more than five games. But, as good as he was, the expectation is that Mackenzie Blackwood will take back the bulk of the starts after a healthy summer. The two combined to win the William M. Jennings Trophy. With Trent Miner and top prospect Ilya Nabokov in the AHL, Colorado's goaltending is as deep as it's been in years.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Colorado's power play was a touchy subject last season, as it was terrible up until the Olympic break. The addition of Kadri gave it a brief boost before it disappointed in the post-season. The Avalanche elected to bring back assistant coach Dave Hakstol, who runs the man advantage, but it will ultimately come down to the players. There's too much talent on the top unit for it to finish 27th again. The penalty kill was the NHL's best last season, but the team will need to replace key contributors in Nichushkin and Drury. Sakic has indicated Svechkov will get an opportunity to fill in with assistant coach Nolan Pratt's group.

INTANGIBLES

What a difference having the captain back makes. When Landeskog was in the lineup, the Avalanche were 45-7-8. His impact on and off the ice cannot be ignored. The Avalanche are built around speed and skill, but they've been eliminated in three consecutive post-seasons by bigger teams built to wear the opposition down. This aging Colorado squad has to show it can win against that style of hockey if the team wants to lift Lord Stanley's Cup.

The Hockey News CUP ODDS 7/1

ROOKIES

Signed out of NCAA Michigan toward the end of the season, 24-year-old T.J. Hughes is likely to make his NHL debut this year. His transition to professional hockey was relatively seamless, as he produced at a near point-per-game rate in the AHL playoffs for the Colorado Eagles.

X-FACTOR

Father Time waits for no one, and Landeskog and Brock Nelson, two of Colorado's top-six forwards, are getting up there in age. If even one of those forwards gets hit with the inevitable decline that comes for all players in their mid-30s, Colorado could be in trouble.

THE BRASS

Sakic brought back Jared Bednar, whose job security was in question after the collapse against Vegas. One of the NHL's most successful bench bosses, Bednar could very well be coaching for his job as he enters the final year of his contract.

DEPTH CHART | 2026-27

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Artturi Lehkonen	1. Nathan MacKinnon	1. Martin Necas
2. Gabriel Landeskog	2. Brock Nelson	2. Nicolas Roy
3. Jaden Schwartz	3. Nazem Kadri	3. Logan O'Connor
4. Parker Kelly	4. Fedor Svechkov	4. Zachary L'Heureux
5. Taylor Makar	5. T.J. Hughes	5. Gavin Brindley

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Cale Makar	6. Josh Manson	1. Mackenzie Blackwood
2. Devon Toews	7. Noah Juulsen	2. Scott Wedgewood
3. Sam Malinski	8. Domenick Fensore	3. Trent Miner
4. Brett Kulak	9. Alex Gagne	
5. Brent Burns	10. Christian Wolanin	

■ INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Valeri Nichushkin, RW; Jack Drury, C; Ross Colton, LW; Nick Blankenburg, D; Zakhar Bardakov, C; Joel Kiviranta, LW; Jack Ahcan, D

MIKHAIL GULYAYEV

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Mikhail Gulyayev
Pos D **Age** 21
2025-26 Omsk (KHL)
Pure burner can author one-man breakouts. He attacks by jumping into pockets of space.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

2. Egor Shilov
Pos C **Age** 18
2025-26 Victoriaville (QMJHL)
Give him the puck and he's magic. Take it away and concerns arise. Boom-or-bust potential.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

3. Ilya Nabokov
Pos G **Age** 23
2025-26 Magnitogorsk (KHL)
Avs NHL tandem means no rush on Nabokov. He'll benefit from regular starts as AHL rookie.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

4. Beckett Hamilton
Pos C **Age** 18
2025-26 Red Deer (WHL)
Give him any job and he'll give it his everything. An on-ice leader with some scoring punch.
Expected NHL Arrival '30-31

5. Taylor Makar
Pos LW **Age** 25
2025-26 Colorado (AHL)
Paving own path to NHL by way of dogged forechecking and commitment to less glamorous work.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

6. Fabian Lysell
Pos RW **Age** 23
2025-26 Providence (AHL)
Talent is evident in the AHL, but he needs NHL opportunity. Let's see if change of scenery will help.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

7. Nikita Prishchepov
Pos C **Age** 22
2025-26 Colorado (AHL)
Moving from wing to center speaks to hockey IQ. Injury cost him majority of last season.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

8. Tobias Tvrznik
Pos G **Age** 19
2025-26 Wenatchee (WHL)
At 6-foot-3, WHL second-team all-star has NHL size. More control than chaos in the crease.
Expected NHL Arrival '31-32

9. Sean Behrens
Pos D **Age** 23
2025-26 Colorado (AHL)
Back from season-long injury, he showed poise and promise. Concerns about 5-foot-10 frame.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

10. Francesco Dell'Elce
Pos D **Age** 21
2025-26 UMass (HE)
Didn't stagnate, but he didn't take big step forward. Long-term project, not readymade NHLer.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

POINTS-O-METER

2026-27 PROJECTIONS

	FORWARDS	DEFENSEMEN
100	133 MacKinnon 102 Necas	
		Makar 90
80		
	62 Nelson	
60	60 Kadri	
	50 Lehkonen	
	45 Landeskog	
		Burns 43
40		
	35 Roy 35 Schwartz	Malinski 35
	30 Kelly 29 Svechkov	Toews 31
		Manson 25
	23 L'Heureux 22 Brindley 21 O'Connor	
20		
		Kulak 15
	14 Hinostroza	
		Juulsen 6
0		

SCHEDULE

Wed, Sept 30	vs Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Sat, Oct 3	vs St. Louis	9:00 PM
Wed, Oct 7	@ Winnipeg	7:30 PM
Thu, Oct 8	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Sat, Oct 10	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 13	@ Dallas	8:30 PM
Wed, Oct 14	vs Dallas	9:30 PM
Fri, Oct 16	vs Pittsburgh	9:00 PM
Mon, Oct 19	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 20	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Fri, Oct 23	vs Tampa Bay	9:00 PM
Sun, Oct 25	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Wed, Oct 28	vs New Jersey	9:00 PM
Sat, Oct 31	vs Calgary	10:00 PM
Mon, Nov 2	@ Chicago	8:00 PM
Tue, Nov 3	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 5	vs Nashville	9:00 PM
Sat, Nov 7	vs Detroit	9:00 PM
Tue, Nov 10	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 12	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 14	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 18	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Thu, Nov 19	vs Anaheim	9:00 PM
Wed, Nov 25	vs Montreal	9:30 PM
Fri, Nov 27	@ Minnesota	4:00 PM
Sat, Nov 28	vs San Jose	9:00 PM
Tue, Dec 1	@ Boston	7:30 PM
Thu, Dec 3	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 5	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 7	@ NY Islanders	1:00 PM
Tue, Dec 8	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Sat, Dec 12	vs Washington	9:00 PM
Mon, Dec 14	vs Utah	9:00 PM
Wed, Dec 16	vs NY Islanders	9:00 PM
Fri, Dec 18	vs Carolina	9:00 PM
Sun, Dec 20	vs Seattle	8:00 PM
Sun, Dec 27	@ Anaheim	8:00 PM
Tue, Dec 29	vs St. Louis	9:00 PM
Thu, Dec 31	@ Utah*	6:00 PM
Sat, Jan 2	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Mon, Jan 4	vs Vegas	9:00 PM
Wed, Jan 6	vs Ottawa	9:30 PM
Fri, Jan 8	vs Seattle	9:00 PM
Sun, Jan 10	vs Nashville	8:00 PM
Tue, Jan 12	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 14	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 16	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 18	vs Vancouver	3:00 PM
Wed, Jan 20	vs Boston	9:00 PM
Fri, Jan 22	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Sun, Jan 24	vs Dallas	5:00 PM
Tue, Jan 26	vs Edmonton	9:00 PM
Thu, Jan 28	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 30	vs Buffalo	5:00 PM
Tue, Feb 9	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Fri, Feb 12	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 13	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Mon, Feb 15	vs Columbus	3:00 PM
Wed, Feb 17	@ Edmonton	9:00 PM
Sat, Feb 20	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Mon, Feb 22	vs Vegas	9:00 PM
Thu, Feb 25	vs Winnipeg	10:30 PM
Sat, Feb 27	vs Florida	7:00 PM
Sun, Feb 28	@ Chicago	6:30 PM
Tue, Mar 2	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Fri, Mar 5	@ San Jose	10:00 PM
Sun, Mar 7	@ Los Angeles	3:30 PM
Tue, Mar 9	vs Philadelphia	9:00 PM
Thu, Mar 11	vs NY Rangers	9:30 PM
Sat, Mar 13	vs Chicago	6:00 PM
Mon, Mar 15	vs Edmonton	9:30 PM
Wed, Mar 17	vs Minnesota	9:00 PM
Fri, Mar 19	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Sun, Mar 21	vs Chicago	5:00 PM
Tue, Mar 23	vs Utah	9:00 PM
Thu, Mar 25	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Sat, Mar 27	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 29	@ San Jose	10:00 PM
Tue, Mar 30	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Fri, Apr 2	vs Los Angeles	9:00 PM
Sun, Apr 4	@ Minnesota	2:00 PM
Tue, Apr 6	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Thu, Apr 8	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Sat, Apr 10	vs Minnesota	3:00 PM

*Winter Classic

DMITRY LOSHKAREV/KHL PHOTO

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

COLORADO AVALANCHE

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Mackenzie Blackwood	29	6-4	225	Left	Thunder Bay, Ont.	Trade: SJ 12/9/24	Colorado	39	23-10-2	2.51	.904
Louka Cloutier	20	6-2	168	Left	Sherbrooke, Que.	132nd overall (2024)	Boston College (HE)	33	19-13-1	2.34	.910
Trent Miner	25	6-1	185	Left	Brandon, Man.	202nd overall (2019)	Colorado (AHL)	32	17-8-8	2.62	.904
Ilya Nabokov	23	6-0	179	Left	Kasli, Rus.	38th overall (2024)	Magnitogorsk (KHL)	38	22-7-5	2.74	.901
Nikita Novosyolov	22	6-2	172	Left	Krasnoturyinsk, Rus.	Free Agent: signed 6/1/26	Gornyak-UGMK (Rus.2)	40	22-10-8	2.10	.932
Alexandre Raymond	18	6-4	201	Left	Sherbrooke, Que.	215th overall (2026)	Rouyn-Noranda (QMJHL)	18	7-4-4	2.09	.914
Tobias Tvrznik	19	6-3	180	Right	Litomerice, Cze.	126th overall (2026)	Wenatchee (WHL)	39	16-18-4	3.10	.913
Scott Wedgewood	34	6-2	201	Left	Brampton, Ont.	Trade: Nsh 11/30/24	Colorado	45	31-6-6	2.02	.921
Ivan Yunin	20	6-2	196	Left	Omsk, Rus.	137th overall (2024)	Omsk Jr. (Rus.)	41	27-9-4	1.79	.919

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Wyatt Aamodt	28	6-0	201	Left	Hermantown, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 4/12/22	Colorado (AHL)	65	4	20	24	34
Sean Behrens	23	5-10	177	Left	Barrington, Ill.	61st overall (2021)	Colorado (AHL)	55	5	18	23	22
Brent Burns	41	6-5	228	Right	Barrie, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/25	Colorado	82	12	23	35	32
Francesco Dell'Elce	21	6-1	180	Left	Nobleton, Ont.	77th overall (2025)	UMass (HE)	36	5	16	21	18
Axel Elofsson	18	5-10	169	Right	Ulricehamn, Swe.	128th overall (2026)	Orebro Jr. (Swe.)	32	9	32	41	20
Domenick Fensore	25	5-9	175	Left	Thornwood, N.Y.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Chicago (AHL)	60	10	25	35	37
Linus Funck	19	6-3	183	Right	Lulea, Swe.	118th overall (2025)	London (OHL)	65	4	18	22	29
Alex Gagne	24	6-4	205	Left	Bedford, N.H.	Free Agent: signed 8/18/25	Colorado (AHL)	58	1	12	13	53
Mikhail Gulyayev	21	5-10	172	Left	Novosibirsk, Rus.	31st overall (2023)	Omsk (KHL)	54	1	2	3	14
Nikita Ishimnikov	21	6-3	194	Right	Snezhinsk, Rus.	155th overall (2023)	Yekaterinburg (KHL)	25	0	2	2	2
Noah Juulsen	29	6-2	201	Right	Surrey, B.C.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Philadelphia	52	1	9	10	15
Hank Kempf	24	6-2	190	Left	Wilmette, Ill.	Trade: NYR 3/1/25	Colorado (AHL)	7	0	2	2	2
Brett Kulak	32	6-1	192	Left	Edmonton, Alta.	Trade: Pit 2/24/26	Edmonton/Pittsburgh/Colorado	83	1	11	12	38
Theodore Lechner	18	6-2	164	Right	St. Louis Park, Minn.	152nd overall (2026)	Academy of Holy Angels (USHS)	23	7	31	38	10
Cale Makar	27	6-0	187	Right	Calgary, Alta.	4th overall (2017)	Colorado	75	20	59	79	24
Sam Malinski	28	5-11	190	Right	Lakeville, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 3/30/23	Colorado	82	8	32	40	22
Josh Manson	34	6-3	218	Right	Hinsdale, Ill.	Trade: Ana 3/14/22	Colorado	79	5	26	31	91
Keaton Middleton	28	6-6	240	Left	Edmonton, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 3/31/21	Colorado (AHL)	66	4	10	14	63
Tory Pitner	20	6-1	180	Right	Greenwich, Conn.	185th overall (2024)	Denver (NCHC)	6	0	1	1	5
Chris Romaine	22	6-0	190	Right	Boston, Mass.	193rd overall (2022)	Ohio State (Big Ten)	18	0	0	0	6
Ondrej Ruml	18	6-0	171	Left	Boskovice, Cze.	214th overall (2026)	Ottawa (OHL)	66	10	18	28	4
Gustav Stjernberg	23	6-4	209	Right	Enebyberg, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 3/13/26	Bowling Green State (CCHA)	25	6	4	10	98
Devon Toews	32	6-1	191	Left	Abbotsford, B.C.	Trade: NYI 10/12/20	Colorado	68	3	21	24	32
Cole Tuminaro	19	6-4	225	Right	Rockford, Ill.	140th overall (2026)	Chicago (USHL)	54	5	11	16	148
Saige Weinstein	21	6-1	185	Left	Edmonton, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 10/6/23	Utah (ECHL)	30	0	2	2	18
Christian Wolanin	31	6-2	190	Left	Quebec, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/5/26	Providence (AHL)	53	7	24	31	14

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Zakhar Bardakov	25	6-2	198	Left	Berdsk, Rus.	Trade: NJ 3/1/24	Colorado	60	1	9	10	14
Gavin Brindley	21	5-8	173	Right	Fort Myers, Fla.	Trade: Clb 6/27/25	Colorado	56	6	7	13	8
Matthew DiMarsico	22	6-0	181	Left	Wexford, Pa.	Free Agent: signed 3/30/26	Penn State (Big Ten)	37	18	24	42	18
Jake Fisher	21	6-2	190	Left	Woodbury, Minn.	121st overall (2024)	Denver (NCHC)	43	8	11	19	6
Beckett Hamilton	18	5-11	170	Right	Huntersville, N.C.	74th overall (2026)	Red Deer (WHL)	67	24	38	62	14
Vinnie Hinostroza	32	5-10	183	Right	Chicago, Ill.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Minnesota/Florida	65	6	12	18	31
Christian Humphreys	20	5-11	170	Right	Pittsburgh, Pa.	215th overall (2024)	Kitchener (OHL)	63	27	58	85	33
Nazem Kadri	35	6-0	185	Left	London, Ont.	Trade: Cgy 3/6/26	Calgary/Colorado	77	16	34	50	30
Nathan MacKinnon	31	6-0	200	Right	Halifax, N.S.	1st overall (2013)	Colorado	80	53	74	127	39
Georgii Merkulov	25	5-11	174	Left	Ryazan, Rus.	Free Agent: signed 7/20/26	Providence (AHL)	70	24	37	61	38
Martin Necas	27	6-3	195	Right	Nove Mesto na Morave, Cze.	Trade: Car 1/24/25	Colorado	78	38	62	100	30
Brock Nelson	34	6-4	205	Left	Warroad, Minn.	Trade: NYI 3/6/25	Colorado	81	33	32	65	36
Tristen Nielsen	26	5-10	192	Left	Fort St. John, B.C.	Free Agent: signed 10/27/25	Colorado (AHL)	66	28	21	49	62
Nikita Prishchepov	22	6-1	194	Left	Orenburg, Rus.	217th overall (2024)	Colorado (AHL)	22	3	9	12	28
Nolan Roed	20	5-11	186	Left	Hugo, Minn.	214th overall (2025)	St. Cloud State (NCHC)	36	5	13	18	32
Nicolas Roy	29	6-4	200	Right	Amos, Que.	Trade: Tor 3/5/26	Toronto/Colorado	74	8	17	25	23
Jaden Schwartz	34	5-10	185	Left	Wilcox, Sask.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/26	Seattle	50	11	15	26	8
Egor Shilov	18	6-1	177	Left	Tyumen, Rus.	43rd overall (2026)	Victoriaville (QMJHL)	63	32	50	82	29
Fedor Svechkov	23	6-0	187	Left	Togliatti, Rus.	Trade: Nsh 6/24/26	Nashville	70	4	13	17	22

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Adam Beckman	25	6-2	192	Left	Saskatoon, Sask.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Bridgeport (AHL)	68	30	21	51	36
Shawn Carrier	19	5-10	186	Left	Trois-Rivieres, Que.	195th overall (2026)	Halifax (QMJHL)	61	37	28	65	75
Parker Kelly	27	6-1	185	Left	Camrose, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Colorado	82	21	14	35	30
Gabriel Landeskog	33	6-1	215	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	2nd overall (2011)	Colorado	60	14	21	35	47
Artturi Lehkonen	31	5-11	179	Left	Piikkio, Fin.	Trade: Mtl 3/21/22	Colorado	70	21	27	48	16
Zachary L'Heureux	23	5-11	197	Left	Montreal, Que.	Trade: Nsh 6/24/26	Milwaukee (AHL)	30	14	14	28	65
Taylor Makar	25	6-3	190	Left	Calgary, Alta.	220th overall (2021)	Colorado (AHL)	52	14	10	24	56
Sampo Ranta	26	6-2	195	Left	Naantali, Fin.	78th overall (2018)	Orebro (SHL)	16	3	3	6	10

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Cooper Gay	24	6-4	209	Left	Edina, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 3/26/25	Colorado (AHL)	11	1	1	2	6
T.J. Hughes	24	6-0	185	Right	Hamilton, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 4/11/26	Michigan (Big Ten)	40	22	35	57	22
Fabian Lysell	23	5-11	186	Right	Gothenburg, Swe.	Trade: Bos 6/27/26	Providence (AHL)	57	17	25	42	51
Logan O'Connor	30	6-0	175	Right	Missouri City, Texas	Free Agent: signed 7/23/18	Colorado	13	0	2	2	4

COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS

2025-26 NUMBERS

RECORD
40-30-12 (.561)

OVERTIME
5-10

SHOOTOUT
7-2

OVERALL
17th

OFFENSE
3.00 GPG (19th)

DEFENSE
3.06 GAA (17th)

POWER PLAY
18.9% (22nd)

PENALTY KILL
76.0% (28th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.82 (8th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.62 (12th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
K. Marchenko (18:57)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
Z. Werenski (26:37)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Rick Bowness

GM
Don Waddell

CAPTAIN
Vacant

ARENA
Nationwide Arena

CAPACITY
18,500

AHL AFFILIATE
Cleveland Monsters

ECHL AFFILIATE
Wheeling Nailers

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BY BRIAN HEDGER

AFTER FALLING JUST SHY of the playoffs again, the Columbus Blue Jackets went into the off-season planning to keep their core together. They accomplished that goal, but their summer was thrown into chaos amid speculation that stars Zach Werenski and Kirill Marchenko didn't want to stay for the long run.

Trade speculation skyrocketed around the draft before Werenski nixed a trade to the Dallas Stars. Werenski and Blue Jackets GM-president of hockey operations Don Waddell issued statements saying the reigning Norris Trophy winner would stay put, and Waddell added that Marchenko would, too. So, the crisis was averted for the short term. The Blue Jackets did lose Boone Jenner and Mason Marchment to free agency, but they acquired Valeri Nichushkin from Colorado and inked Ryan Lomberg to play on a fourth line that will start the season without Isac Lundestrom due to an off-season Achilles injury.

OFFENSE

The Blue Jackets had a drop-off in the offensive zone, finishing with 21 fewer goals than they had in 2024-25. Werenski led Columbus in points for the second consecutive season, and not a single player reached 30 goals. However, the Blue Jackets did have four who got to 20 goals, 10 who finished in the double-digits and 24 who scored at least once, so it's a balanced attack. Nichushkin, when healthy, remains one of the NHL's most effective power

SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

KIRILL MARCHENKO

SERGEI BELSKI-IMAGN IMAGES

forwards, so he will give the Blue Jackets a scoring boost. They're also looking for rebound seasons from power forward Dmitri Voronkov and playmaking center Kent Johnson.

DEFENSE

Those looking for a reason the Jackets can return to the playoffs need only look at their goals-against stats. They went from allowing 4.01 goals per game in 2022-23 to 3.06 last season. That leap is impressive considering they had four coaches in that span (not counting Mike Babcock) and their penalty-killing rate of 76 percent ranked 28th last year. Much of last season's improvement happened after Rick Bowness replaced Dean Evason. Now, Columbus will have a full season under Bowness. That could help the numbers improve further. The Jackets top seven 'D,' a group led by Werenski, haven't changed from last year.

GOALTENDING

Greaves answered one of the Blue Jackets' biggest questions by putting together an impressive effort in his first full NHL season. Though he's undersized at six-foot, 188 pounds, he isn't overmatched as the Blue Jackets' top goalie. After helping the team earn points in 35 of his 55 appearances, including 26 wins and two shutouts, Greaves claimed the No. 1 role over Elvis Merzlikins and is now the top option entering camp.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Improving on special teams should be one of the top priorities for a coaching staff that added Trent Vogelhuber and Don Granato as new assistants. Vogelhuber, promoted from AHL Cleveland, will coordinate a struggling penalty kill, while Granato takes over a power play that finished 22nd at 18.9 percent. The Blue Jackets routinely finish near the bottom of the NHL in drawing power plays, so Granato has his work cut out. It will be interesting to see if Vogelhuber deploys a more passive or aggressive penalty-kill strategy.

INTANGIBLES

Ever since Johnny Gaudreau's death in August 2024, the Blue Jackets have pushed through adversity as a family. They've prided themselves on having a close-knit dressing room, but that'll be tested when Werenski and Marchenko show up for camp. Does either player want to remain part of the group after all the commotion? Does Werenski even want to be the captain? Time will tell.

The Hockey News CUP ODDS

65/1

ROOKIES

Luca Del Bel Belluz, 22, has logged 30 NHL games over the past three seasons, so he's not a rookie. He could be their youngest player, though, by centering the fourth line while Lundestrom is out. Luca Pinelli and Jack Williams, who do qualify as rookies, could see NHL time as injury replacements.

X-FACTOR

The Blue Jackets' chemistry must survive the Werenski and Marchenko sagas, but keeping Nichushkin healthy and getting rebound seasons from Johnson and Voronkov are just as important. Johnson was developing well before the wheels fell off, while Voronkov has a rare combination of size, strength and skill that is only limited by his physical conditioning.

THE BRASS

Bowness ruffled feathers with his frank comments to the media following Columbus' season-finale loss, but the message was clear: it's time for the Blue Jackets to end a six-year playoff drought. That's why Waddell insists that trade offers for any of his top players include impact NHL talents over picks and prospects.

DEPTH CHART | 2026-27

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Valeri Nichushkin	1. Adam Fantilli	1. Kirill Marchenko
2. Kent Johnson	2. Sean Monahan	2. Conor Garland
3. Cole Sillinger	3. Charlie Coyle	3. Mathieu Olivier
4. Dmitri Voronkov	4. Isac Lundestrom +	4. Ryan Lomberg
5. Mikael Pyyhtia	5. Luca Del Bel Belluz	5. Miles Wood

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Zach Werenski	6. Erik Gudbranson	1. Jet Greaves
2. Damon Severson	7. Jake Christiansen	2. Elvis Merzlikins
3. Ivan Provorov	8. Colton White	3. Pheonix Copley
4. Denton Mateychuk	9. Corson Ceulemans	+ INJURED
5. Dante Fabbro	10. Guillaume Richard	INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Mason Marchment, LW; Boone Jenner, C; Danton Heinen, LW; Zach Aston-Reese, C; Brendan Gaunce, C; Egor Zamula, D; Brendan Smith, D

CAYDEN LINDSTROM

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Cayden Lindstrom
Pos C **Age** 20
2025-26 Michigan State (Big Ten)
Injuries keep hampering development, but his size and skill still scream NHL power forward.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

2. Jackson Smith
Pos D **Age** 19
2025-26 Penn State (Big Ten)
Effortless skater drives play one way and disrupts it the other. He's a power-play QB, too.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

3. Oscar Hemming
Pos LW **Age** 18
2025-26 Boston College (HE)
Don't be fooled by output. The talent is there. Odd contract situation led to strange season.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

4. Pyotr Andreyanov
Pos G **Age** 19
2025-26 CSKA Moscow Jr. (Rus.)
Moves around crease with power and gracefulness that helps shut down cross-ice chances.
Expected NHL Arrival '31-32

5. Luca Del Bel Belluz
Pos C **Age** 22
2025-26 Cleveland (AHL)
Consistent AHL production has him primed and ready. His NHL minutes have been scarce.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

6. Charlie Elick
Pos D **Age** 20
2025-26 Tri-City (WHL)
Skating needs attention, but size, strength and stick skills set him up for shutdown work.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

7. Luca Pinelli
Pos C **Age** 21
2025-26 Cleveland (AHL)
Plays well beyond his size and doesn't shy away from getting to tough areas to contribute.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

8. Evan Gardner
Pos G **Age** 20
2025-26 Saskatoon (WHL)
Numbers steadily declined in WHL, but the long-term outlook still strong for poised keeper.
Expected NHL Arrival '30-31

9. Alessandro Di Iorio
Pos C **Age** 18
2025-26 Sarnia (OHL)
Boston University commit wore 'C' for Sarnia down the stretch. His stats belie his skill set.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

10. Guillaume Richard
Pos D **Age** 23
2025-26 Cleveland (AHL)
Skilled defense-first rearguard gets his stick on pucks and keeps attackers to the outside.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

POINTS-O-METER

2026-27 PROJECTIONS

FORWARDS		DEFENSEMEN
100		
		Werenski 82
80		
	78 Fantilli	
	71 Marchenko	
60		
	47 Voronkov	
	47 Johnson	
	45 Nichushkin	
	44 Coyle	
	43 Garland	Mateychuk 42
40		
	40 Monahan	
	40 Sillinger	
	34 Olivier	Severson 34
		Provorov 32
	25 Del Bel Belluz	
20		
		Fabbro 18
	17 Lundestrom	
	17 Lomberg	
	14 Wood	
	9 Pyyhtia	Gudbranson 9
		Christiansen 8
0		

SCHEDULE

Thu, Oct 1	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 3	vs Utah	7:00 PM
Fri, Oct 9	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 10	@ St. Louis	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 13	vs Florida	6:15 PM
Sat, Oct 17	vs NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Sun, Oct 18	@ Minnesota	6:00 PM
Tue, Oct 20	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 24	vs Vegas	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 27	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 29	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 31	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Tue, Nov 3	vs Colorado	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 5	vs Dallas	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 6	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 10	vs Florida	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 12	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 14	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 17	@ NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 19	@ Chicago	8:00 PM
Sat, Nov 21	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Mon, Nov 23	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 25	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 27	vs Detroit	3:00 PM
Mon, Nov 30	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 3	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 5	@ Nashville	2:00 PM
Mon, Dec 7	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 10	vs Minnesota	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 12	vs Montreal	1:00 PM
Sun, Dec 13	@ NY Rangers	6:00 PM
Tue, Dec 15	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 17	vs Seattle	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 19	vs Los Angeles	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 21	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 22	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 26	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 27	vs Edmonton	5:00 PM
Tue, Dec 29	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 31	vs Washington	2:00 PM
Sat, Jan 2	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 3	@ NY Rangers	6:00 PM
Tue, Jan 5	vs NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 7	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Fri, Jan 8	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 12	@ Calgary	8:00 PM
Fri, Jan 15	@ Edmonton	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 16	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Mon, Jan 18	@ Seattle	4:00 PM
Thu, Jan 21	vs Calgary	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 23	@ Ottawa	3:30 PM
Sun, Jan 24	vs Anaheim	5:00 PM
Tue, Jan 26	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 28	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 30	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Mon, Feb 8	@ Toronto	7:30 PM
Tue, Feb 9	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 11	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 13	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Mon, Feb 15	@ Colorado	3:00 PM
Wed, Feb 17	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Thu, Feb 18	@ Vegas	10:30 PM
Sat, Feb 20	vs Nashville	5:00 PM
Mon, Feb 22	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Fri, Feb 26	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 27	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 1	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Wed, Mar 3	@ San Jose	10:00 PM
Fri, Mar 5	@ Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Sun, Mar 7	@ Anaheim	8:00 PM
Thu, Mar 11	vs Vancouver	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 13	vs San Jose	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 16	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 18	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 20	@ Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 22	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 25	vs Chicago	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 27	vs St. Louis	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 30	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 1	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 3	@ Washington	5:00 PM
Tue, Apr 6	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 8	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 10	@ NY Islanders	5:00 PM

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ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Pyotr Andreyanov	19	6-0	207	Left	Volsk, Rus.	20th overall (2025)	CSKA Moscow Jr. (Rus.)	26	13-8-3	2.59	.919
Pheonix Copley	34	6-4	205	Left	North Pole, Alaska	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Ontario (AHL)	33	21-11-1	2.59	.901
Evan Gardner	20	6-0	175	Left	Fort St. John, B.C.	60th overall (2024)	Saskatoon (WHL)	52	25-16-6	2.96	.902
Jet Greaves	25	6-0	188	Left	Cambridge, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 2/20/22	Columbus	55	26-19-9	2.60	.908
Sergei Ivanov	22	5-11	165	Left	Chernushka, Rus.	138th overall (2022)	St. Petersburg (KHL)	29	13-11-2	2.50	.928
Nolan Lalonde	22	6-1	190	Left	Kingston, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 10/2/22	Toledo (ECHL)	22	11-4-3	2.57	.903
Elvis Merzlikins	32	6-3	190	Left	Riga, Lat.	76th overall (2014)	Columbus	30	14-11-3	3.40	.883
Parker Snell	18	6-2	176	Left	St. Albert, Alta.	142nd overall (2026)	Edmonton (WHL)	33	21-9-1	2.74	.895
Melvin Strahl	21	6-3	163	Left	Solleftea, Swe.	156th overall (2023)	Michigan State (Big Ten)	3	2-0-1	2.27	.922

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Luke Ashton	21	6-6	231	Left	North Vancouver, B.C.	165th overall (2024)	Cornell (ECAC)	34	3	8	11	6
Tim Berni	26	6-0	192	Left	Mannedorf, Sui.	159th overall (2018)	Geneva (Sui.)	50	2	14	16	35
Boston Buckberger	23	6-0	190	Left	Saskatoon, Sask.	Free Agent: signed 4/13/26	Denver (NCHC)	43	10	19	29	18
Corson Ceulemans	23	6-2	198	Right	Regina, Sask.	25th overall (2021)	Cleveland (AHL)	64	8	16	24	43
Jake Christiansen	27	6-0	199	Left	West Vancouver, B.C.	Free Agent: signed 3/4/20	Columbus	40	0	3	3	8
Charlie Elick	20	6-3	194	Right	Calgary, Alta.	36th overall (2024)	Tri-City (WHL)	63	6	14	20	46
Dante Fabbro	28	6-0	200	Right	Coquitlam, B.C.	Waivers: Nsh 11/10/24	Columbus	74	5	6	11	33
Erik Gudbranson	34	6-5	222	Right	Ottawa, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/13/22	Columbus	37	1	2	3	19
Victor Hedin Raftheim	18	6-4	181	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	173rd overall (2025)	Brynas (SHL)	28	0	0	0	4
Tanner Henricks	20	6-3	192	Right	Mission Viejo, Calif.	101st overall (2024)	St. Cloud State (NCHC)	14	3	3	6	15
Caleb MacDonald	23	6-4	225	Left	Cambridge, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 3/26/25	Cleveland (AHL)	58	3	9	12	74
Nikolai Makarov	23	6-1	190	Left	Perm, Rus.	132nd overall (2021)	CSKA Moscow/Togliatti (KHL)	27	0	7	7	22
Luca Marrelli	20	6-1	181	Right	Toronto, Ont.	86th overall (2024)	Cleveland (AHL)	32	4	12	16	10
Denton Mateychuk	22	5-11	188	Left	Winnipeg, Man.	12th overall (2022)	Columbus	75	13	18	31	8
Ivan Provorov	29	6-1	224	Left	Yaroslavl, Rus.	Trade: Phi 6/6/23	Columbus	82	9	22	31	32
Guillaume Richard	23	6-2	170	Left	Quebec, Que.	101st overall (2021)	Cleveland (AHL)	70	7	11	18	20
Damon Severson	32	6-2	204	Right	Melville, Sask.	Trade: NJ 6/9/23	Columbus	71	8	24	32	45
Jackson Smith	19	6-3	195	Left	Calgary, Alta.	14th overall (2025)	Penn State (Big Ten)	35	11	15	26	40
Andrew Strathmann	21	5-11	187	Left	Waukegan, Ill.	98th overall (2023)	North Dakota (NCHC)	38	1	5	6	48
Malte Vass	19	6-2	184	Left	Karlstad, Swe.	76th overall (2025)	Boston University (HE)	22	0	3	3	4
Zach Werenski	29	6-2	214	Left	Grosse Pointe, Mich.	8th overall (2015)	Columbus	75	22	59	81	18
Colton White	29	6-1	187	Left	London, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/6/26	Utica (AHL)	30	1	6	7	29
Jonas Woo	19	5-9	175	Right	Winnipeg, Man.	185th overall (2026)	Medicine Hat (WHL)	56	29	57	86	50

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Charlie Coyle	34	6-3	221	Right	East Weymouth, Mass.	Trade: Col 6/27/25	Columbus	82	20	38	58	14
Luca Del Bel Belluz	22	6-1	185	Left	Woodbridge, Ont.	44th overall (2022)	Cleveland (AHL)	55	22	36	58	2
Alessandro Di Iorio	18	6-0	188	Right	Vaughan, Ont.	94th overall (2026)	Sarnia (OHL)	45	12	19	31	16
Josh Eernisse	24	6-3	216	Right	Apple Valley, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 4/12/26	Michigan (Big Ten)	38	11	8	19	37
Adam Fantilli	21	6-2	205	Left	Nobleton, Ont.	3rd overall (2023)	Columbus	82	24	35	59	38
Owen Griffin	19	5-10	160	Right	Markham, Ont.	160th overall (2025)	Oshawa (OHL)	66	25	42	67	54
Kent Johnson	23	6-0	170	Left	Port Moody, B.C.	5th overall (2021)	Columbus	76	7	15	22	20
Oiva Keskinen	22	6-0	180	Left	Ylojarvi, Fin.	194th overall (2023)	Tappara (Liiga)	49	20	17	37	14
Cayden Lindstrom	20	6-3	209	Left	Dawson Creek, B.C.	4th overall (2024)	Michigan State (Big Ten)	31	3	7	10	94
Jeremy Loranger	19	5-9	161	Right	Trois-Rivieres, Que.	198th overall (2025)	Nebraska-Omaha (NCHC)	28	7	12	19	14
Isac Lundestrom	26	6-1	192	Left	Gallivare, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Columbus	68	4	8	12	4
Max McCue	23	6-1	182	Left	Sudbury, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 3/1/24	Cleveland (AHL)	26	2	6	8	39
Sean Monahan	31	6-2	206	Left	Brampton, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Columbus	78	13	23	36	12
Luca Pinelli	21	5-9	176	Left	Stoney Creek, Ont.	114th overall (2023)	Cleveland (AHL)	68	14	32	46	66
Cole Sillinger	23	6-0	202	Left	Columbus, Ohio	12th overall (2021)	Columbus	81	8	25	33	37
Owen Sillinger	29	5-10	182	Left	Regina, Sask.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Cleveland (AHL)	69	14	20	34	50
Anttoni Uronen	18	6-0	201	Left	Kerava, Fin.	182nd overall (2026)	HIFK (Liiga)	27	2	8	10	2

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Danton Heinen	31	6-2	187	Left	Langley, B.C.	Trade: Pit 12/29/25	Pittsburgh/Columbus	46	6	6	12	16
Oscar Hemming	18	6-4	193	Left	Vaasa, Fin.	14th overall (2026)	Boston College (HE)	19	1	7	8	18
Evan Jardine	18	6-0	185	Left	Bloomfield Hills, Mich.	121st overall (2026)	Youngstown (USHL)	53	27	34	61	70
Ryan Lomberg	31	5-9	184	Left	Richmond Hill, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Calgary	57	4	5	9	59
James Malatesta	23	5-9	193	Left	Montreal, Que.	133rd overall (2021)	Cleveland (AHL)	57	10	8	18	87
Filip Novak	18	6-1	198	Left	Chomutov, Cze.	206th overall (2026)	Praha Jr. (Cze.)	28	11	24	35	60
Mikael Pyyhtia	24	6-0	178	Left	Turku, Fin.	114th overall (2020)	Cleveland (AHL)	59	21	28	49	22
Luke Tuch	24	6-3	215	Left	Syracuse, N.Y.	Trade: Mtl 6/25/26	Laval (AHL)	68	9	5	14	82
Dmitri Voronkov	26	6-5	234	Left	Angarsk, Rus.	114th overall (2019)	Columbus	63	17	15	32	59
Miles Wood	31	6-2	209	Left	Buffalo, N.Y.	Trade: Col 6/27/25	Columbus	54	8	6	14	26

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Riley Bezeau	24	6-0	187	Right	Mansfield, Mass.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Cleveland (AHL)	24	5	2	7	74
Kirill Dolzhenkov	22	6-6	234	Left	Moscow, Rus.	109th overall (2022)	CSKA Moscow/Omsk (KHL)	47	6	6	12	14
Jordan Dumais	22	5-8	173	Right	Montreal, Que.	96th overall (2022)	Cleveland (AHL)	46	7	11	18	8
James Fisher	22	6-2	170	Right	Burlington, Mass.	203rd overall (2022)	Northeastern (HE)	36	2	1	3	26
Conor Garland	30	5-10	165	Right	Scituate, Mass.	Trade: Van 3/5/26	Vancouver/Columbus	71	12	21	33	34
Kirill Marchenko	26	6-3	201	Right	Barnaul, Rus.	49th overall (2018)	Columbus	76	27	40	67	32
Valeri Nichushkin	31	6-4	210	Left	Chelyabinsk, Rus.	Trade: Col 6/25/26	Colorado	72	17	32	49	26
Mathieu Olivier	29	6-1	232	Right	Biloxi, Miss.	Trade: Nsh 6/30/22	Columbus	61	15	11	26	101
William Whitelaw	21	5-9	173	Right	Rosemount, Minn.	66th overall (2023)	Western Michigan (NCHC)	39	19	15	34	51
Jack Williams	24	5-11	185	Right	Biddeford, Maine	Free Agent: signed 3/25/25	Cleveland (AHL)	72	15	23	38	14

DALLAS STARS

2025-26 NUMBERS

RECORD
50-20-12 (.683)

OVERTIME
6-8

SHOOTOUT
6-4

OVERALL
3rd

OFFENSE
3.33 GPG (9th)

DEFENSE
2.71 GAA (2nd)

POWER PLAY
28.6% (2nd)

PENALTY KILL
80.3% (13th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.57 (21st)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.48 (7th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
J. Robertson (20:15)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
M. Heiskanen (25:28)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Glen Gulutzan

GM
Jim Nill

CAPTAIN
Jamie Benn

ARENA
American Airlines Center

CAPACITY
18,532

AHL AFFILIATE
Texas Stars

ECHL AFFILIATE
Idaho Steelheads

MIRO HEISKANEN

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BY STEPHEN MESERVE

AFTER YEARS OF CONTENDING for Western Conference titles in May, the Dallas Stars bowed out in the first round last season, leading to a summer of retooling, contemplation and extended negotiation. For the Stars, the salary cap isn't rising fast enough. The mandate to pay left winger Jason Robertson his arbitration rate necessitated the trade of young, productive center Mavrik Bourque to Nashville. Dallas failed to lock down Robertson to a long-term deal and will now have contract uncertainty hanging over the 96-point man all season.

With the loss of Bourque and a tight cap, Dallas will look internally to replace that offense, including with the return of Tyler Seguin after an ACL injury. With multiple players in their primes, this is the time for Dallas, but with Colorado and Minnesota pushing just as hard, how will the team continue to contend in the packed Central?

OFFENSE

The Stars can absolutely score – and certainly on the power play. That's not been a problem. The problem is distribution and timing, as their rate of 0.76 goals for per 60 at 5-on-5 in the post-season was the NHL's second-lowest total. When top scorers go cold at the wrong time, who is going to step into that gap? Bourque's 20 goals will need to be replaced. Justin Hryckowian, Sam Steel and Roope Hintz are all candidates to make that gap less painful. And Robertson, Wyatt Johnston and Mikko Rantanen are all

SERGEI BELSKI-IMAGN IMAGES

stars in their own rights, but they'll have to find that next gear. On the blueline, the Stars will need a bounce-back year from Thomas Harley, whose offensive totals dipped despite the confidence boost of a Team Canada selection.

DEFENSE

Dallas continues the run-it-back theme on the blueline. Ilya Lyubushkin was shipped to Nashville alongside Bourque to make room for Robertson's contract, and Tyler Myers figures to get the same usage – but at less than half the cap hit. Alexander Petrovic departed for Florida, and Kyle Burroughs joined, but otherwise the group is a repeat. Miro Heiskanen is the undisputed leader and collected 63 points last year. Harley will anchor the second pair with Nils Lundkvist and is signed on a team-friendly deal. With Esa Lindell munching minutes in all scenarios, the Stars' only liability is their third pairing of Myers and Lian Bichsel.

GOALTENDING

Jake Oettinger, who's normally very solid and is signed through 2032-33, is coming off of what qualifies for him as a down year: he eclipsed 35 wins but had a sub-.900 save percentage. Casey DeSmith is the entrenched backup, with numbers that would make him a starter in many other cities. Dallas' sole question mark in net is the reliability of its third in case of injury. Longtime AHLer Remi Poirier has yet to play in an NHL game.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Dallas' power play ranked second in the regular season at 28.6 percent and first in the playoffs at a blistering 40 percent, which tracks with its high-octane offensive players. It was a strong initial showing for assistant Neil Graham, who joined the staff from AHL Texas with power-play success on his resume. On the penalty kill, Dallas went from the top five in 2024-25 to middle of the pack last season, but assistant Alain Nasreddine's 1-1-2 PK has been the league's second-best (81.9 percent) since he joined the team in 2022. So history suggests the dip was just a blip.

INTANGIBLES

Most of the team has been deep in the post-season before. Finding even-strength scoring and riding out inevitable injuries will dictate how the post-season goes. The Stars saw numerous players come back from the Olympic break injured after playing for their countries, so staying healthy through the new 84-game season is a key intangible.

The Hockey News CUP ODDS 12/1

ROOKIES

With a run-it-back mindset, there's little room for rookies. Dallas' 2024 first-rounder, Emil Hemming, along with NCAA free agent Dylan Hryckowian, younger brother of Justin, will both spend the year in AHL Texas. They each have a limited chance at an appearance.

X-FACTOR

Secondary scoring is going to be key to the fate of the season. With more dollars concentrated on fewer players, the bottom six and any rookies who might make an appearance will be crucial parts of the story.

THE BRASS

Coach Glen Gulutzan returns for the second year of his second stint, and the pressure is on him to get past the first round in the brutal Central. For the first time in memory, GM Jim Nill struggled to get a contract done – the Robertson deal – and negotiations became far more public than he's ever had in the past. After the two sides agreed on a one-year, $12-million deal in July, the Stars can again attempt to get a long-term deal done starting Jan. 1.

DEPTH CHART | 2026-27

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Jason Robertson	1. Wyatt Johnston	1. Mikko Rantanen
2. Justin Hryckowian	2. Roope Hintz	2. Tyler Seguin
3. Jamie Benn	3. Matt Duchene	3. Sam Steel
4. Joel Kiviranta	4. Radek Faksa	4. Colin Blackwell
5. Cameron Hughes	5. Oskar Back	5. Arttu Hyry

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Miro Heiskanen	6. Lian Bichsel	1. Jake Oettinger
2. Esa Lindell	7. Kyle Burroughs	2. Casey DeSmith
3. Thomas Harley	8. Kyle Capobianco	3. Remi Poirier
4. Nils Lundkvist	9. Trey Taylor	
5. Tyler Myers	10. Luke Krys	

INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Mavrik Bourque, C; Ilya Lyubushkin, D; Michael Bunting, LW; Nathan Bastian, RW; Alexander Petrovic, D; Adam Erne, LW

BRETT HOLMES–IMAGN IMAGES

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Emil Hemming
Pos RW **Age** 20
2025-26 Barrie (OHL)
Big shooter gets to high-traffic, high-percentage areas to score. He had torrid OHL playoff.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

2. Tristan Bertucci
Pos D **Age** 21
2025-26 Texas (AHL)
Adding to a strong own-zone foundation with puck-moving skills and power-play production.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

3. Cameron Schmidt
Pos RW **Age** 19
2025-26 Seattle (WHL)
Lethal scorer has knack for finding soft spots in coverage. Two-way play is work in progress.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

4. Jakub Vanecek
Pos D **Age** 18
2025-26 Tri-City (WHL)
Until he develops stronger defensive game, he primarily profiles as a special-teams weapon.
Expected NHL Arrival '30-31

5. Aram Minnetian
Pos D **Age** 21
2025-26 Boston College (HE)
Larger NCAA role aided development. He didn't look out of place in late-season AHL audition.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

6. Ryan Brown
Pos LW **Age** 18
2025-26 London (OHL)
Menaces the opposition with blend of crash-and-bang forechecking and net-front finishing.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

7. Trey Taylor
Pos D **Age** 24
2025-26 Texas (AHL)
Late-blooming blueliner taking long way but making most of every opportunity he's earned.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

8. Niilopekka Muhonen
Pos D **Age** 20
2025-26 Medicine Hat (WHL)
Imposing frame and willingness to use it helps separate oncoming attackers from the puck.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

9. Atte Joki
Pos C **Age** 19
2025-26 Lukko (Liiga)
Working his way up Finnish club's lineup thanks to well-rounded game. Skating needs work.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

10. Brandon Gorzynski
Pos C **Age** 19
2025-26 Prince Albert (WHL)
Red-hot finish to WHL campaign. Plays with energy and makes the most of his physical tools.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

POINTS-O-METER

2026-27 PROJECTIONS

	FORWARDS	DEFENSEMEN
100		
	94 Rantanen	
	90 Robertson	
	89 Johnston	
80		
	67 Hintz	Heiskanen 67
	63 Duchene	
60		
		Harley 48
40	40 Seguin	
	39 Benn	
	31 Steel	
		Lindell 27
	26 Hryckowian	
		Myers 23
20	20 Faksa	
	17 Blackwell	
	16 Back	
		Lundkvist 15
	12 Hyry	
	9 Kiviranta	Bichsel 9
		Capobianco 6
0		

SCHEDULE

Fri, Oct 2	vs St. Louis	9:00 PM
Sat, Oct 3	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Mon, Oct 5	vs San Jose	8:00 PM
Thu, Oct 8	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 10	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 13	vs Colorado	8:30 PM
Wed, Oct 14	@ Colorado	9:30 PM
Sat, Oct 17	@ Chicago	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 20	vs Boston	8:00 PM
Thu, Oct 22	vs Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Sun, Oct 25	vs NY Islanders	6:00 PM
Tue, Oct 27	vs New Jersey	8:00 PM
Thu, Oct 29	vs Montreal	8:00 PM
Sat, Oct 31	vs Columbus	8:00 PM
Tue, Nov 3	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 5	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 7	vs San Jose	8:00 PM
Thu, Nov 12	vs Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Sat, Nov 14	vs Buffalo	8:00 PM
Sun, Nov 15	vs Florida	8:00 PM
Tue, Nov 17	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Thu, Nov 19	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Sun, Nov 22	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 25	vs Nashville	8:00 PM
Fri, Nov 27	@ St. Louis	2:00 PM
Sat, Nov 28	vs Utah	8:00 PM
Tue, Dec 1	@ Seattle	9:40 PM
Thu, Dec 3	@ Seattle	9:40 PM
Sat, Dec 5	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Wed, Dec 9	vs Toronto	7:30 PM
Sat, Dec 12	vs St. Louis	8:00 PM
Tue, Dec 15	vs Washington	9:30 PM
Thu, Dec 17	@ Edmonton	8:00 PM
Sat, Dec 19	@ Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 20	@ Winnipeg	6:00 PM
Tue, Dec 22	vs Calgary	8:00 PM
Sun, Dec 27	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 29	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 31	vs NY Rangers	9:00 PM
Sat, Jan 2	vs Chicago	8:00 PM
Mon, Jan 4	vs Detroit	8:00 PM
Wed, Jan 6	@ San Jose	10:00 PM
Fri, Jan 8	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sat, Jan 9	@ Los Angeles	9:00 PM
Tue, Jan 12	vs Ottawa	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 14	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Fri, Jan 15	@ NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 17	@ NY Rangers	6:00 PM
Tue, Jan 19	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Wed, Jan 20	@ Chicago	9:30 PM
Fri, Jan 22	vs Colorado	8:00 PM
Sun, Jan 24	@ Colorado	5:00 PM
Tue, Jan 26	vs Anaheim	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 28	vs Vancouver	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 30	@ Minnesota	9:00 PM
Mon, Feb 8	vs Los Angeles	8:00 PM
Fri, Feb 12	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 13	@ Florida	6:00 PM
Tue, Feb 16	vs Minnesota	8:00 PM
Thu, Feb 18	vs Philadelphia	8:00 PM
Sat, Feb 20	vs Vegas*	8:00 PM
Tue, Feb 23	vs Vancouver	8:00 PM
Thu, Feb 25	vs Tampa Bay	8:00 PM
Sat, Feb 27	vs Edmonton	3:00 PM
Sun, Feb 28	@ St. Louis	9:00 PM
Wed, Mar 3	vs Minnesota	8:00 PM
Fri, Mar 5	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 6	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 8	@ Toronto	7:30 PM
Wed, Mar 10	vs Anaheim	9:30 PM
Sat, Mar 13	@ Los Angeles	9:00 PM
Mon, Mar 15	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Wed, Mar 17	@ Calgary	9:30 PM
Sat, Mar 20	@ Edmonton	3:30 PM
Tue, Mar 23	vs Carolina	8:00 PM
Thu, Mar 25	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 27	vs Nashville	8:00 PM
Tue, Mar 30	vs Calgary	8:00 PM
Fri, Apr 2	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Sat, Apr 3	vs Chicago	6:00 PM
Mon, Apr 5	vs Seattle	8:00 PM
Wed, Apr 7	@ Utah	9:30 PM
Fri, Apr 9	vs Utah	8:00 PM
Sat, Apr 10	@ Nashville	6:00 PM

*Stadium Series

PHOTO BY BARRIE COLTS

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

DALLAS STARS

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Casey DeSmith	35	6-0	188	Left	Rochester, N.H.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Dallas	30	15-8-6	2.43	.907
Mans Goos	19	6-5	190	Left	Vasteras, Swe.	158th overall (2025)	Farjestad Jr. (Swe.)	23	13-9-0	2.89	.904
Brandon Halverson	30	6-5	235	Left	Traverse City, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Syracuse (AHL)	43	24-11-10	2.42	.905
Maxim Mayorov	22	6-6	196	Left	Togliatti, Rus.	147th overall (2022)	No team		DNP		
Jake Oettinger	27	6-6	225	Left	Lakeville, Minn.	26th overall (2017)	Dallas	54	35-12-6	2.59	.899
Remi Poirier	24	6-3	211	Left	Farnham, Que.	185th overall (2020)	Texas (AHL)	52	27-19-8	2.61	.912
Arno Tiefensee	24	6-4	217	Left	Weibwasser, Ger.	157th overall (2023)	Texas (AHL)	20	10-7-0	3.30	.892
Anton Emil Wilde Larsen	18	6-2	191	Left	Frederikshavn, Den.	187th overall (2026)	Frederikshavn (Den.)	13	0-11-0	4.80	.850

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Jack Anderson	23	6-6	225	Left	St. Louis, Mo.	Free Agent: signed 3/18/26	Michigan Tech (CCHA)	39	11	13	24	33
Tristan Bertucci	21	6-2	191	Left	Woodbridge, Ont.	61st overall (2023)	Texas (AHL)	63	5	19	24	53
Lian Bichsel	22	6-7	237	Left	Olten, Sui.	18th overall (2022)	Dallas	50	4	4	8	37
Kyle Burroughs	31	6-0	193	Right	Vancouver, B.C.	Free Agent: signed 7/6/26	Ontario (AHL)	18	1	6	7	10
Kyle Capobianco	29	6-3	194	Left	Mississauga, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Dallas	33	2	3	5	8
Mikhail Cherepanov	18	6-1	188	Left	Yekaterinburg, Rus.	219th overall (2026)	New Hampshire (NAHL)	56	5	26	31	99
George Fegaras	22	6-1	188	Right	Richmond Hill, Ont.	83rd overall (2022)	Cornell (ECAC)	34	5	16	21	30
Thomas Harley	25	6-3	214	Left	Syracuse, N.Y.	18th overall (2019)	Dallas	70	6	30	36	26
Miro Heiskanen	27	6-2	197	Left	Espoo, Fin.	3rd overall (2017)	Dallas	77	9	54	63	30
Luke Krys	26	6-1	188	Right	Ridgefield, Conn.	Free Agent: signed 3/19/24	Texas (AHL)	40	7	9	16	30
Esa Lindell	32	6-3	217	Left	Vantaa, Fin.	74th overall (2012)	Dallas	82	6	26	32	20
Nils Lundkvist	26	6-1	194	Right	Pitea, Swe.	Trade: NYR 9/19/22	Dallas	52	3	8	11	16
Aram Minnetian	21	5-11	192	Right	Woodcliff Lake, N.J.	125th overall (2023)	Boston College (HE)	36	2	9	11	38
Niilopekka Muhonen	20	6-5	208	Left	Kuopio, Fin.	158th overall (2024)	Medicine Hat (WHL)	39	0	12	12	31
Tyler Myers	36	6-8	229	Right	Houston, Texas	Trade: Van 3/4/26	Vancouver/Dallas	73	1	10	11	52
Connor Punnett	23	6-1	203	Left	North Bay, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 3/7/24	Idaho (ECHL)	46	4	18	22	99
Trey Taylor	24	6-2	196	Left	Richmond, B.C.	Free Agent: signed 3/24/25	Texas (AHL)	70	8	18	26	34
Jakub Vanecek	18	6-2	194	Left	Pelhrimov, Cze.	59th overall (2026)	Tri-City (WHL)	59	14	21	35	20

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Oskar Back	26	6-4	207	Left	Karlstad, Swe.	75th overall (2018)	Dallas	72	5	7	12	10
Colin Blackwell	33	5-8	181	Right	North Andover, Mass.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/24	Dallas	70	4	11	15	40
Matt Duchene	35	5-11	211	Left	Haliburton, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Dallas	57	16	29	45	8
Radek Faksa	32	6-3	216	Left	Vitkov, Cze.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Dallas	58	2	15	17	18
Christian Fitzgerald	24	6-0	186	Left	Coquitlam, B.C.	Free Agent: signed 4/13/26	Wisconsin (Big Ten)	39	16	15	31	26
Jaxon Fuder	20	6-0	175	Left	Grande Prarie, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 9/23/25	Red Deer/Edmonton (WHL)	51	8	29	37	102
Brandon Gorzynski	19	6-2	190	Left	Scottsdale, Ariz.	126th overall (2025)	Calgary/Prince Albert (WHL)	65	27	42	69	47
Roope Hintz	29	6-3	217	Left	Nokia, Fin.	49th overall (2015)	Dallas	53	15	29	44	18
Justin Hryckowian	25	5-11	198	Left	L'Ile-Bizard, Que.	Free Agent: signed 3/20/24	Dallas	81	14	16	30	43
Cameron Hughes	29	6-0	190	Left	Edmonton, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Texas (AHL)	65	17	51	68	48
Wyatt Johnston	23	6-1	187	Right	Toronto, Ont.	23rd overall (2021)	Dallas	82	45	41	86	32
Atte Joki	19	6-1	200	Left	Nokia, Fin.	146th overall (2025)	Lukko (Liiga)	40	4	8	12	14
Jasper Kuhta	19	6-3	194	Left	Helsinki, Fin.	197th overall (2026)	Ottawa (OHL)	62	32	31	63	6
Angus MacDonell	21	5-10	197	Left	Toronto, Ont.	189th overall (2023)	Idaho (ECHL)	43	8	14	22	22
William Samuelsson	21	6-0	176	Left	Sodertalje, Swe.	222nd overall (2024)	Green Bay (USHL)	61	13	15	28	46
Harrison Scott	26	6-0	204	Left	San Jose, Calif.	Free Agent: signed 3/31/25	Texas (AHL)	72	18	14	32	38
Tyler Seguin	34	6-2	205	Right	Brampton, Ont.	Trade: Bos 7/4/13	Dallas	27	7	10	17	2
Artem Shlaine	24	6-1	165	Left	Moscow, Rus.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Texas (AHL)	67	19	19	38	12
Sam Steel	28	6-0	185	Left	Ardrossan, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Dallas	73	12	21	33	24

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Jamie Benn	37	6-3	210	Left	Victoria, B.C.	129th overall (2007)	Dallas	60	15	21	36	53
Sebastian Bradshaw	21	6-3	196	Left	Newtonville, Ont.	221st overall (2023)	Langley/Vernon (BCHL)	37	7	9	16	57
Ryan Brown	18	5-11	177	Left	Newmarket, Ont.	155th overall (2026)	Sarnia/London (OHL)	67	22	41	63	43
Justin Ertel	23	6-2	191	Left	Kitchener, Ont.	79th overall (2021)	Texas (AHL)	44	2	5	7	24
Joel Kiviranta	30	5-11	185	Left	Vantaa, Fin.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Colorado	51	3	6	9	8
Ayrton Martino	24	5-11	186	Left	Toronto, Ont.	73rd overall (2021)	Texas (AHL)	41	2	10	12	4
Jason Robertson	27	6-3	204	Left	Arcadia, Calif.	39th overall (2017)	Dallas	82	45	51	96	32

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Emil Hemming	20	6-2	211	Right	Vaasa, Fin.	29th overall (2024)	Barrie (OHL)	46	26	37	63	22
Dylan Hryckowian	22	5-10	180	Right	Montreal, Que.	Free Agent: signed 3/20/26	Northeastern (HE)	30	15	22	37	32
Arttu Hyry	25	6-3	211	Right	Oulu, Fin.	Free Agent: signed 4/15/24	Texas (AHL)	27	9	10	19	13
Charlie Paquette	20	6-2	199	Right	Windsor, Ont.	222nd overall (2025)	Guelph/Brantford (OHL)	65	29	34	63	34
Mikko Rantanen	29	6-4	228	Left	Nousiainen, Fin.	Trade: Car 3/7/25	Dallas	64	22	55	77	93
Cameron Schmidt	19	5-7	154	Right	Edmonton, Alta.	94th overall (2025)	Vancouver/Seattle (WHL)	72	51	49	100	58
Matthew Seminoff	22	6-0	189	Right	Leesburg, Va.	179th overall (2022)	Texas (AHL)	72	24	26	50	24
Dawson Sharkey	20	6-0	186	Right	Souris, P.E.I.	190th overall (2025)	Newfoundland (QMJHL)	60	33	29	62	128

DETROIT RED WINGS

2025-26 NUMBERS

RECORD
41-31-10 (.561)

OVERTIME
9-6

SHOOTOUT
2-4

OVERALL
16th

OFFENSE
2.91 GPG (22nd)

DEFENSE
3.10 GAA (19th)

POWER PLAY
22.6% (12th)

PENALTY KILL
77.1% (23rd)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.61 (20th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.70 (16th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
D. Larkin (20:11)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
M. Seider (25:40)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Todd McLellan

GM
Vacant

CAPTAIN
Dylan Larkin

ARENA
Little Caesars Arena

CAPACITY
20,000

AHL AFFILIATE
Grand Rapids Griffins

ECHL AFFILIATE
Toledo Walleye

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BY BOB DUFF

FOR MUCH OF 2025-26, it appeared that not only were the Detroit Red Wings going to end their decade-long playoff drought but they were going to do so in impressive fashion. On Jan. 24, they led the Atlantic Division and were tied for the top seed in the Eastern Conference.

Suddenly, it all came apart in an epic collapse. The wheels didn't just come off for the Red Wings. The engine failed, the roof caved in and the doors blew off in Michael Caine fashion. Coming back from the Olympic break, the Red Wings went 8-12-4, finishing 10th in the East and missing the playoffs by seven points. Then it got worse. Captain Dylan Larkin, the face of the franchise, demanded a trade, and Patrick Kane, who finished fifth in team scoring, left as a UFA. It all became too much to ignore, and in mid-July, the team announced Steve Yzerman was transitioning from his role as GM to a senior-advisor position.

OFFENSE

Alex DeBrincat hit the 40-goal plateau for the third time in his career, and Lucas Raymond scored 25 goals, but the loss of Kane and the potential departure of Larkin could remove 50 goals from a team that finished 22nd in the NHL with 239 tallies. The team also thinks Raymond needs to shoot the puck more frequently – he took 173 shots in 80 games. After that, the offense dries up quickly. James van Riemsdyk (15), Emmitt Finnie (13) and J.T. Compher (11) were the only other forwards to reach double digits

SERGEI BELSKI-IMAGN IMAGES

in goals. The team did sign Viktor Arvidsson, who scored 25 goals last season. Among Boston Bruins players who suited up for more than three games, he led the team with 1.31 goals per 60 minutes at even strength. Detroit was 30th in even-strength goals last season, so Arvidsson should help in that department.

DEFENSE

Another plus for the Red Wings is the offense they get from their defense. Justin Faulk scored five of his 16 goals after arriving in Detroit, and Moritz Seider (10) and Simon Edvinsson (nine) were also significant contributors. Altogether, Detroit got 40 goals from its blueline. Seider and Edvinsson form a stellar top pairing. Playing over 1,000 minutes together, they were plus-13 in 5-on-5 goal differential. Faulk and Ben Chiarot are a decent second pair. Signed to a three-year extension, Chiarot should eventually drop down into a third-pair role. Albert Johansson and Jacob Bernard-Docker figure to form the third pairing for now, while Axel Sandin-Pellikka, William Wallinder and Jacob Bryson will battle for depth spots.

GOALTENDING

John Gibson gave the Wings consistent netminding for the first time in years, posting 29 wins and a .901 save percentage in 57 games. Daniil Tarasov was signed to back up Gibson, but this is likely a stop-gap measure. Michal Postava, who posted a 1.71 goals-against average and a .937 SP with AHL Grand Rapids, was so solid that the Wings dealt 2021 first-rounder Sebastian Cossa to Utah.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Losing Kane – and potentially Larkin – diminishes the team's power play significantly. Larkin ran the show on Detroit's PP from his bumper role, and no one in the game is better at zone entries than Kane. His creativity in the attacking zone is still elite. The Red Wings ranked 12th on the power play last season at 22.6 percent and 23rd on the penalty kill at 77.1 percent. Over the past five seasons, Detroit is 29th on the PK at 76.1 percent.

INTANGIBLES

The potential loss of Larkin cannot be understated, as he netted a career-high 34 goals last season and has reached the 30-goal plateau five years in a row. No matter what kind of deal the Wings eventually make, they won't be able to replace that level of offense. If Larkin is in camp come September – a realistic possibility considering he has a full no-movement clause and has only approved four teams to which to be dealt – things could get really uncomfortable in the dressing room.

The Hockey News CUP ODDS 55/1

ROOKIES

The Wings have continued letting prospects ripen on the vine. Under coach Todd McLellan, though, this strategy is slowly loosening. Wallinder will stick because he has to clear waivers. Michael Brandsegg-Nygard and Carter Mazur got brief looks last season, and both could break through.

X-FACTOR

The Red Wings are viewed as a soft team that's easy to play against, but trading for Keegan Kolesar should help change that. Since becoming an NHL regular in 2021-22, Kolesar has averaged 261.8 hits per season.

THE BRASS

Yzerman will remain in charge of the day-to-day hockey operations while governor and CEO Chris Ilitch heads up the search for a new GM. Whoever steps into the role will face a trial by fire, dealing with Larkin's request and trying to find the right mix to end the team's 10-year playoff drought.

DEPTH CHART | 2026-27

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Marco Kasper	1. Dylan Larkin	1. Lucas Raymond
2. Alex DeBrincat	2. Andrew Copp	2. Viktor Arvidsson
3. Emmitt Finnie	3. J.T. Compher	3. Michael Brandsegg-Nygard
4. Carter Mazur	4. Michael Rasmussen	4. Keegan Kolesar
5. John Leonard	5. Nate Danielson	5. Mason Appleton

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Moritz Seider	6. Jacob Bernard-Docker	1. John Gibson
2. Simon Edvinsson	7. Axel Sandin-Pellikka	2. Daniil Tarasov
3. Ben Chiarot	8. William Wallinder	3. Michal Postava
4. Justin Faulk	9. Jacob Bryson	
5. Albert Johansson	10. Anton Johansson	

■ INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Patrick Kane, RW; James van Riemsdyk, LW; David Perron, LW; Travis Hamonic, D; Cam Talbot, G; Erik Gustafsson, D

DAN HAMILTON-IMAGN IMAGES

NATE DANIELSON

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Nate Danielson
Pos C **Age** 22
2025-26 Grand Rapids (AHL)
Responsible center showed well in a quarter-season NHL audition. Ready for bottom-six gig.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

2. M. Brandsegg-Nygard
Pos RW **Age** 20
2025-26 Grand Rapids (AHL)
Wrecking-ball winger engages physically and can beat keepers clean with his heavy shot.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

3. Trey Augustine
Pos G **Age** 21
2025-26 Michigan State (Big Ten)
With Sebastian Cossa out the door, NCAA standout Augustine is future of Red Wings' crease.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

4. Carter Bear
Pos LW **Age** 19
2025-26 Everett (WHL)
Natural goal-scoring ability and a willingness to fight through contact to create chances.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

5. JP Hurlbert
Pos LW **Age** 18
2025-26 Kamloops (WHL)
Wings can keep eye on WHL rookie of the year as Michigan commit develops in NCAA.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

6. Eddie Genborg
Pos RW **Age** 19
2025-26 Timra (SHL)
Loaned back to SHL after AHL stint. At his best when going through, not around, opposition.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

7. Max Plante
Pos LW **Age** 20
2025-26 Minn.-Duluth (NCHC)
Hobey Baker winner represented USA at worlds. Playmaker popped with 25 goals last season.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

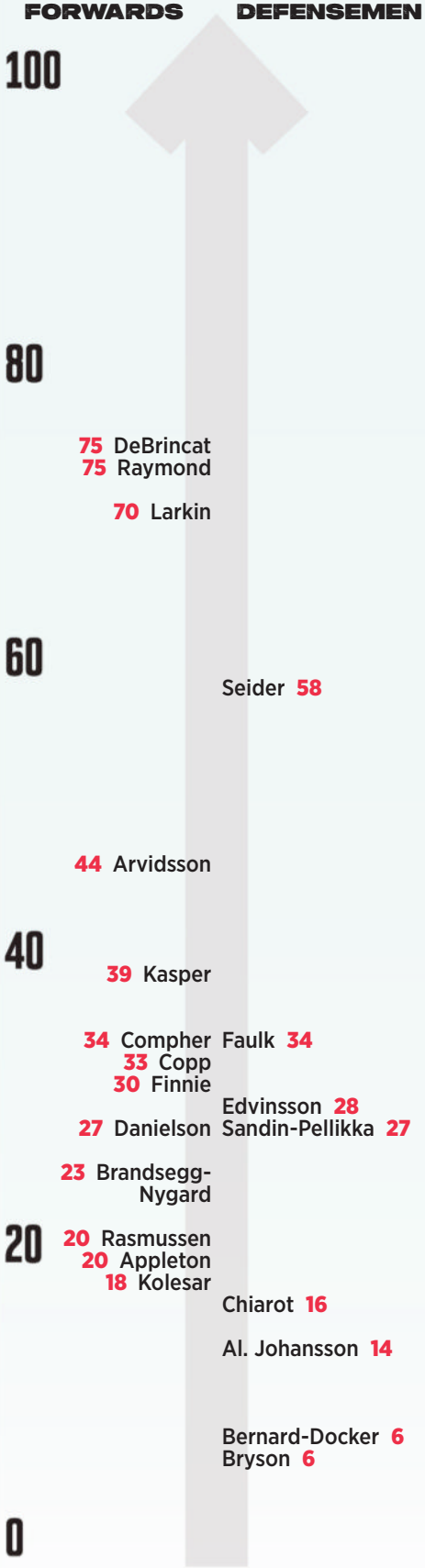
8. Victor Plante
Pos LW **Age** 18
2025-26 USA U18 (NTDP)
He'll join his brothers, Max and Zam, at UMD this season. Cut from same playmaker cloth.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

9. Michal Orsulak
Pos G **Age** 19
2025-26 Prince Albert (WHL)
Backstopped Czechia to WJC silver and posted best GAA in WHL. Wings stay rich in crease.
Expected NHL Arrival '31-32

10. Anton Johansson
Pos D **Age** 22
2025-26 Leksand (SHL)
Rangy, two-way, puck-moving rearguard also plays with a physical edge.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

POINTS-O-METER

2026-27 PROJECTIONS



SCHEDULE

Fri, Oct 2	vs NY Rangers	6:30 PM
Sun, Oct 4	vs Winnipeg	1:00 PM
Tue, Oct 6	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Fri, Oct 9	vs Seattle	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 10	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 13	vs New Jersey	6:00 PM
Thu, Oct 15	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 17	vs San Jose	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 20	@ Seattle	9:40 PM
Thu, Oct 22	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Sat, Oct 24	@ Calgary	10:00 PM
Mon, Oct 26	@ Edmonton	9:30 PM
Thu, Oct 29	vs Chicago	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 31	vs St. Louis	1:00 PM
Mon, Nov 2	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 3	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 5	vs Vegas	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 7	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Tue, Nov 10	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Thu, Nov 12	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 14	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 18	vs Boston	7:30 PM
Sat, Nov 21	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 25	vs Vancouver	7:30 PM
Fri, Nov 27	@ Columbus	3:00 PM
Sat, Nov 28	vs Nashville	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 1	vs Calgary	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 3	vs Colorado	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 5	@ Boston	1:00 PM
Wed, Dec 9	@ New Jersey	7:30 PM
Fri, Dec 11	vs NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 12	vs Florida	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 15	vs Los Angeles	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 17	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 18	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 20	vs Tampa Bay	5:00 PM
Tue, Dec 22	vs Toronto	7:30 PM
Sat, Dec 26	@ Nashville	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 28	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 29	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 31	vs Carolina	2:00 PM
Sat, Jan 2	vs Edmonton	1:00 PM
Mon, Jan 4	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 7	vs Utah	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 9	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Wed, Jan 13	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Sat, Jan 16	@ Chicago	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 17	vs Minnesota	5:00 PM
Tue, Jan 19	vs Anaheim	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 21	@ Minnesota	9:00 PM
Sat, Jan 23	vs Tampa Bay	1:00 PM
Mon, Jan 25	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Wed, Jan 27	vs Toronto	7:30 PM
Fri, Jan 29	vs Florida	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 30	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Tue, Feb 9	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Thu, Feb 11	@ Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Sat, Feb 13	@ San Jose	4:00 PM
Mon, Feb 15	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Thu, Feb 18	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Fri, Feb 19	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Sun, Feb 21	vs Buffalo	3:30 PM
Tue, Feb 23	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 25	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 27	@ Boston	12:00 PM
Mon, Mar 1	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 4	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 6	vs Dallas	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 9	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Fri, Mar 12	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 14	@ Pittsburgh	2:00 PM
Tue, Mar 16	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 18	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 20	vs Montreal	1:00 PM
Tue, Mar 23	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Wed, Mar 24	vs Washington	7:30 PM
Sat, Mar 27	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Sun, Mar 28	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 30	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Fri, Apr 2	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Sun, Apr 4	@ Ottawa	5:00 PM
Tue, Apr 6	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Fri, Apr 9	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 10	@ Buffalo	6:00 PM

PHOTO BY GRAND RAPIDS GRIFFINS

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

DETROIT RED WINGS

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP	
Trey Augustine	21	6-1	183	Left	St. Louis, Mo.	41st overall (2023)	Michigan State (Big Ten)	34	24-9-1	2.11	.929	
John Gibson	33	6-3	209	Left	Pittsburgh, Pa.	Trade: Ana 6/28/25	Detroit	57	29-22-4	2.72	.901	
Rudy Guimond	21	6-3	188	Left	Pointe-Claire, Que.	169th overall (2023)	Moncton (QMJHL)	50	40-7-3	2.27	.922	
Carter Gylander	25	6-5	197	Left	Edmonton, Alta.	191st overall (2019)	Toledo (ECHL)	34	20-9-5	2.78	.901	
Michal Orsulak	19	6-4	225	Right	Pilsen, Cze.	79th overall (2026)	Prince Albert (WHL)	36	28-4-4	2.22	.907	
Michal Postava	24	6-1	200	Left	Valasske Mezirici, Cze.	Free Agent: signed 6/10/25	Grand Rapids (AHL)	25	17-6-0	1.71	.937	
Michal Pradel	19	6-4	203	Left	Dolny Kubin, Svk.	75th overall (2025)	Tri-City (USHL)	38	16-16-4	2.75	.911	
Daniil Tarasov	27	6-5	203	Left	Novokuznetsk, Rus.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Florida	33	13-15-3	3.05	.895	
DEFENSEMEN	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2025-26**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Ronnie Attard	27	6-3	208	Right	White Lake, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 7/13/26	Colorado (AHL)	44	3	14	17	38
Jacob Bernard-Docker	26	6-1	196	Right	Canmore, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Detroit	63	1	4	5	25
Myles Brosnan	18	6-0	194	Right	Winchester, Mass.	196th overall (2026)	Dexter Southfield (USHS)	30	7	44	51	-
Jacob Bryson	28	5-9	177	Left	London, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Buffalo/Winnipeg	50	2	6	8	10
Shai Buium	23	6-3	216	Left	San Diego, Calif.	36th overall (2021)	Grand Rapids (AHL)	36	3	11	14	8
Ben Chiarot	35	6-3	222	Left	Hamilton, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/13/22	Detroit	82	5	10	15	75
Brady Cleveland	21	6-5	211	Left	Wausau, Wis.	47th overall (2023)	Minnesota-Duluth (NCHC)	39	0	2	2	47
Simon Edvinsson	23	6-6	222	Left	Kungsbacka, Swe.	6th overall (2021)	Detroit	72	9	16	25	75
Justin Faulk	34	6-0	208	Right	South St. Paul, Minn.	Trade: StL 3/6/26	St. Louis/Detroit	78	16	24	40	42
Albert Johansson	25	6-0	195	Left	Karlstad, Swe.	60th overall (2019)	Detroit	82	3	8	11	16
Anton Johansson	22	6-4	172	Right	Stockholm, Swe.	105th overall (2022)	Leksand (SHL)	42	5	12	17	49
Larry Keenan	21	6-3	185	Left	Barrie, Ont.	117th overall (2023)	UMass (HE)	36	8	11	19	10
William Lagesson	30	6-2	211	Left	Gothenburg, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Grand Rapids (AHL)	61	3	18	21	36
Will Murphy	19	6-4	211	Left	Summerside, P.E.I.	172nd overall (2025)	Cape Breton (QMJHL)	38	4	4	8	51
Jack Phelan	22	6-2	171	Right	Hinsdale, Ill.	137th overall (2023)	Wisconsin (Big Ten)	37	0	9	9	14
Axel Sandin Pellikka	21	6-0	186	Right	Gallivare, Swe.	17th overall (2023)	Detroit	68	7	14	21	18
Fisher Scott	21	6-1	179	Left	Carbondale, Colo.	208th overall (2024)	Colorado College (NCHC)	36	2	12	14	34
Moritz Seider	25	6-2	210	Right	Zell, Ger.	6th overall (2019)	Detroit	82	10	50	60	57
Nikita Tyurin	19	6-0	174	Left	Moscow, Rus.	140th overall (2025)	Spartak Moscow/Spartak MAH Jr. (Rus.)	52	4	26	30	40
Eemil Viro	24	6-0	165	Left	Vantaa, Fin.	70th overall (2020)	Malmo (SHL)	52	5	11	16	20
William Wallinder	24	6-4	208	Left	Solleftea, Swe.	32nd overall (2020)	Grand Rapids (AHL)	66	2	18	20	23
John Whipple	20	6-1	192	Left	Morristown, N.J.	144th overall (2024)	Minnesota (Big Ten)	36	1	1	2	14
CENTERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2025-26**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Brennan Ali	22	6-0	193	Left	Glenco, Ill.	212th overall (2022)	Notre Dame (Big Ten)	35	8	7	15	23
Mason Appleton	30	6-2	196	Right	Green Bay, Wis.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/25	Detroit	65	6	8	14	44
Ondrej Becher	22	6-2	198	Left	Ostrava, Cze.	80th overall (2024)	Grand Rapids (AHL)	60	9	19	28	42
Andrew Copp	32	6-1	200	Left	Ann Arbor, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 7/13/22	Detroit	79	9	34	43	24
Nate Danielson	22	6-2	195	Right	Edmonton, Alta.	9th overall (2023)	Detroit	28	2	5	7	4
Sheldon Dries	32	5-10	182	Left	Macomb, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Grand Rapids (AHL)	57	23	22	45	13
Beckham Edwards	18	6-1	187	Left	London, Ont.	143rd overall (2026)	Sarnia (OHL)	64	19	26	45	14
Emmitt Finnie	21	6-1	195	Left	Lethbridge, Alta.	201st overall (2023)	Detroit	82	13	17	30	6
Marco Kasper	22	6-1	202	Left	Innsbruck, Aut.	8th overall (2022)	Detroit	81	9	10	19	33
Dylan Larkin	30	6-1	204	Left	Waterford, Mich.	15th overall (2014)	Detroit	74	34	33	67	48
Adam Levac	18	6-0	176	Right	Ottawa, Ont.	108th overall (2026)	Peterborough (OHL)	60	16	28	44	47
Owen Mehlenbacher	22	6-2	189	Left	Fort Erie, Ont.	201st overall (2022)	UMass (HE)	32	3	6	9	8
Michael Rasmussen	27	6-6	222	Left	Surrey, B.C.	9th overall (2017)	Detroit	64	6	8	14	8
Grayden Robertson-Palmer	19	5-11	190	Left	North Bay, Ont.	204th overall (2025)	Moncton (QMJHL)	55	6	5	11	14
Theo Rochette	24	5-10	161	Left	Neuchatel, Sui.	Free Agent: signed 6/14/26	Lausanne (Sui.)	46	22	21	43	14
Wilmer Skoog	27	6-2	196	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Charlotte (AHL)	61	18	19	37	51
LEFT WINGERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2025-26**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Luka Arkko	18	6-3	212	Left	Lahti, Fin.	175th overall (2026)	Pelicans Jr. (Fin.)	42	11	14	25	10
Viktor Arvidsson	33	5-10	181	Right	Skelleftea, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Boston	69	25	29	54	24
Austin Baker	20	6-0	190	Left	White Lake, Mich.	203rd overall (2024)	Michigan State (Big Ten)	14	0	1	1	15
Carter Bear	19	6-0	186	Left	Winnipeg, Man.	13th overall (2025)	Everett (WHL)	53	36	41	77	56
Kevin Bicker	21	6-0	187	Left	Weiden in der Oberpfalz, Ger.	147th overall (2023)	Frankfurt/Mannheim (Ger.)	27	2	2	4	4
J.T. Compher	31	6-0	191	Right	Northbrook, Ill.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Detroit	82	11	17	28	27
Noah Dower Nilsson	21	6-0	174	Left	Stromstad, Swe.	73rd overall (2023)	Frolunda (SHL)	48	6	10	16	10
Charlie Forslund	20	6-3	212	Left	Falun, Swe.	176th overall (2024)	Almtuna (Swe.2)	28	5	4	9	12
JP Hurlbert	18	6-0	183	Right	Allen, Texas	23rd overall (2026)	Kamloops (WHL)	68	42	55	97	45
Dylan James	22	6-0	181	Left	Calgary, Alta.	40th overall (2022)	North Dakota (NCHC)	40	21	11	32	10
John Leonard	28	5-11	192	Left	Westwood, N.J.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Grand Rapids (AHL)	47	33	21	54	12
Carter Mazur	24	6-0	200	Right	Jackson, Mich.	70th overall (2021)	Grand Rapids (AHL)	16	11	5	16	14
Max Plante	20	5-11	170	Left	Duluth, Minn.	47th overall (2024)	Minnesota-Duluth (NCHC)	40	25	27	52	23
Victor Plante	18	5-10	163	Left	Duluth, Minn.	47th overall (2026)	USA U18 (NTDP)	57	21	27	48	71
Lucas Raymond	24	5-11	186	Right	Gothenburg, Swe.	4th overall (2020)	Detroit	80	25	51	76	22
Michal Svrcek	19	5-10	189	Left	Zilina, Svk.	119th overall (2025)	Brynas (SHL)	12	0	0	0	0
RIGHT WINGERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2025-26**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Michael Brandsegg-Nygard	20	6-1	204	Right	Oslo, Nor.	15th overall (2024)	Grand Rapids (AHL)	60	20	24	44	42
Cameron Butler	24	6-4	215	Right	Ottawa, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Iowa (ECHL)	30	9	11	20	77
Alex DeBrincat	28	5-8	180	Right	Farmington Hills, Mich.	Trade: Ott 7/9/23	Detroit	82	41	44	85	19
Kienan Draper	24	6-0	187	Right	Royal Oak, Mich.	187th overall (2020)	Michigan (Big Ten)	40	5	13	18	59
Eddie Genborg	19	6-1	179	Left	Trollhattan, Swe.	44th overall (2025)	Timra (SHL)	43	9	16	25	24
Jesse Kiiskinen	21	6-2	197	Right	Hollola, Fin.	Trade: Nsh 6/25/24	HPK (Liiga)	54	17	11	28	13
Keegan Kolesar	29	6-2	216	Right	Brandon, Man.	Trade: Veg 7/1/26	Vegas	82	6	11	17	55
Dominik Shine	33	5-11	177	Right	Pinckney, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 1/27/25	Grand Rapids (AHL)	40	21	18	39	41
Brent Solomon	19	6-0	173	Right	Robbinsdale, Minn.	109th overall (2025)	Sioux Falls (USHL)	54	24	29	53	14
Chase Stillman	23	6-1	185	Right	St. Louis, Mo.	Free Agent: signed 7/4/26	Abbotsford (AHL)	24	3	6	9	48

EDMONTON OILERS

2025-26 NUMBERS

RECORD
41-30-11 (.567)

OVERTIME
9-7

SHOOTOUT
0-4

OVERALL
14th

OFFENSE
3.44 GPG (6th)

DEFENSE
3.23 GAA (25th)

POWER PLAY
30.6% (1st)

PENALTY KILL
77.8% (20th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.78 (11th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.63 (13th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
C. McDavid (22:59)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
E. Bouchard (24:41)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Mike Babcock

GM
Stan Bowman

CAPTAIN
Connor McDavid

ARENA
Rogers Place

CAPACITY
18,500

AHL AFFILIATE
Bakersfield Condors

ECHL AFFILIATE
Fort Wayne Komets

CONNOR MCDAVID

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BY CAROL SCHRAM

IN 2025-26, CONNOR MCDAVID claimed his sixth scoring title and his fifth Ted Lindsay Award. But with his 30th birthday looming on the horizon, the thirst for a championship is stronger than ever for Edmonton's marquee superstar.

After two consecutive Stanley Cup final appearances in 2024 and 2025, the Oilers' April upset at the hands of the Anaheim Ducks marked their first opening-round playoff exit since they were swept by the Winnipeg Jets in 2021. With that, ownership elected to point the ship in a new direction. And while Mike Babcock isn't the first taskmaster to step behind Edmonton's bench in the McDavid era, he does carry the most fearsome reputation – further amplified by his over-before-it-began stint with Columbus in 2023. Both the NHL and Edmonton's central core of McDavid, Leon Draisaitl and Zach Hyman signed off before Babcock's hiring became official.

OFFENSE

Scoring wasn't a problem for the Oilers last season, as their 3.44 goals per game ranked them sixth in the league. McDavid's 138 points were the second most of his career, and despite losing a month to a lower-body injury, Draisaitl finished with 97 points. Babcock is tasked with balancing a forward group that has long been dominated by the team's top stars. They claim to understand the assignment, which could mean fewer minutes and a stronger two-way commitment while others gain more opportunities. Matt

PERRY NELSON-IMAGN IMAGES

Savoie and Vasily Podkolzin can contribute in the top six, and Isaac Howard has been a threat at every level, so the Oilers hope his jump is imminent.

DEFENSE

A longtime member of the Oilers' core, Darnell Nurse set sail for San Jose on July 1. Nurse got a much-needed fresh start, and GM Stan Bowman got a $9.25-million gift, as no salary was retained. That leaves Mattias Ekholm and Evan Bouchard as Edmonton's culture carriers on the blueline, with Connor Murphy and Jake Walman rounding out the top four. Two new faces are set to debut. Shakir Mukhamadullin, the 20th pick overall in 2020, has good size and shutdown capabilities. Ryan Shea is a late-bloomer who was originally drafted by Bowman in Chicago in 2015, but he played his first full NHL year with Pittsburgh last season at 28.

GOALTENDING

Expect to see crease competition, as Tristan Jarry and his $5.375-million cap hit will share starts with two newcomers. Bowman lured Frederik Andersen from Carolina on a one-year deal and traded for 24-year-old Devon Levi. With 39 games of NHL experience, Levi is no longer waiver-exempt. After being squeezed out last season in Buffalo, he could make Edmonton's goalie brigade a three-headed threat this year.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Edmonton's success rate of 30.6 percent on the man advantage last season was the NHL's best power-play efficiency since the Oilers hit at 32.4 percent in 2022-23. The Oilers should have little trouble maintaining that threat level, but the coaching staff may begin to share minutes more broadly. The team's shorthanded play remained a weakness. In the regular season, the issue was mitigated by relatively few penalties taken, but disaster struck in the playoffs for a second consecutive year. The PK skills of Murphy and Jason Dickinson make them valuable acquisitions. Shea and Mukhamadullin are also expected to lend a hand.

INTANGIBLES

McDavid left money on the table but only signed for two years when he inked a $12.5-million-AAV extension in October 2025. Winning is his only goal, and he said he'll do whatever it takes. At Babcock's opening presser, the new coach invoked Steve Yzerman's transformation from offensive hotshot to two-way powerhouse. He'll try to walk the captain down a similar path, but the plan needs to click in a hurry to quell concerns that McDavid will be the next star to seek a change of scenery.

The Hockey News CUP ODDS

15/1

ROOKIES

After playing 24 NHL games last season, Josh Samanski is set to be Edmonton's only rookie. Signed out of Germany, the 24-year-old settled into the roster after the trade deadline, delivering reliable bottom-six minutes at both ends of the ice.

X-FACTOR

Babcock landed in Oil Country with his trademark bluster, largely unapologetic for his highly scrutinized past. The team's leaders said they're ready to absorb the brunt of his tough love. Will his my-way-or-the-highway approach prove to be the magic bullet, or will it be a bridge too far in today's NHL?

THE BRASS

Despite his two Western Conference titles, Kris Knoblauch was shown the door after 233 games, and the Oilers were denied permission to speak to Bruce Cassidy before Babcock came on board. Babcock is the only bench boss in the Triple Gold Club but hasn't worked an NHL game since 2019.

DEPTH CHART | 2026-27

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Ryan Nugent-Hopkins	1. Connor McDavid	1. Zach Hyman
2. Vasily Podkolzin	2. Leon Draisaitl	2. Matt Savoie
3. Isaac Howard	3. Jason Dickinson	3. Kasperi Kapanen
4. Colton Dach	4. Josh Samanski	4. Trent Frederic
5. Max Jones	5. Mattias Janmark	5. Mathieu Joseph

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Evan Bouchard	6. Shakir Mukhamadullin	1. Frederik Andersen
2. Mattias Ekholm	7. Ty Emberson	2. Tristan Jarry
3. Jake Walman	8. Spencer Stastney	3. Devon Levi
4. Connor Murphy	9. Alec Regula	
5. Ryan Shea	10. Josh Brown	

■ INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Darnell Nurse, D; Connor Ingram, G; Jack Roslovic, C; Adam Henrique, C; Calvin Pickard, G; Curtis Lazar, C

PERRY NELSON-IMAGN IMAGES

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Isaac Howard
Pos LW **Age** 22
2025-26 Bakersfield (AHL)
2025 Hobey Baker winner shone in AHL. Primed for middle-six chance after 29-game NHL stint.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

2. Devon Levi
Pos G **Age** 24
2025-26 Rochester (AHL)
Settled into gig as AHL starter. He'll push established keepers for the No. 1 job on Oilers this year.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

3. Quinn Hutson
Pos RW **Age** 24
2025-26 Bakersfield (AHL)
Earned AHL all-rookie nod after 30-goal campaign. Lethal release and shooting accuracy.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

4. Josh Samanski
Pos C **Age** 24
2025-26 Bakersfield (AHL)
Doesn't cheat the game at either end of the ice. Committed two-way center with solid frame.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

5. Tommy Lafreniere
Pos RW **Age** 19
2025-26 Kamloops (WHL)
Versatility is one of his best abilities. He has the IQ to play and thrive anywhere up top.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

6. Beau Akey
Pos D **Age** 21
2025-26 Bakersfield (AHL)
Promising 'D' had development stunted by injuries. Now healthy, he's catching up in AHL.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

7. Rudolfs Berzkalns
Pos C **Age** 18
2025-26 Muskegon (USHL)
The 6-foot-4 pivot can elevate game by learning how to better use size to his advantage.
Expected NHL Arrival '30-31

8. David Lewandowski
Pos LW **Age** 19
2025-26 Saskatoon (WHL)
Took big step in second WHL campaign. He can fight through defenders to get pucks on net.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

9. Zachary Sharp
Pos D **Age** 21
2025-26 W. Michigan (NCHC)
Parlayed greater opportunity into increased production in NCAA. Skating is among best assets.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

10. Paul Fischer
Pos D **Age** 21
2025-26 Notre Dame (Big Ten)
Blue-collar blueliner projects as a bit-part player willing to do the defensive dirty work.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

POINTS-O-METER

2026-27 PROJECTIONS

	FORWARDS	DEFENSEMEN
100	141 McDavid 118 Draisaitl	Bouchard 105
80		
	63 Nugent-Hopkins	
60	58 Hyman 54 Savoie	
40	40 Podkolzin	Ekholm 39
	31 Dickinson 29 Howard	Walman 33 Shea 28
	24 Kapanen	
	22 Frederic	
20	20 Dach	
	18 Samanski	
	16 Joseph	Mukhamadullin 13
	13 Jones 10 Janmark	Emberson 12 Murphy 10
		Stastney 5
0		

SCHEDULE

Tue, Sept 29	vs Vancouver	10:00 PM
Thu, Oct 1	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Sat, Oct 3	vs Seattle	7:00 PM
Wed, Oct 7	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sat, Oct 10	@ San Jose	4:00 PM
Tue, Oct 13	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Thu, Oct 15	vs Utah	9:00 PM
Sat, Oct 17	@ Utah	10:00 PM
Tue, Oct 20	vs Minnesota	9:00 PM
Thu, Oct 22	vs Carolina	9:00 PM
Sat, Oct 24	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Mon, Oct 26	vs Detroit	9:30 PM
Wed, Oct 28	vs Calgary	8:30 PM
Sat, Oct 31	@ NY Islanders	3:30 PM
Sun, Nov 1	@ NY Rangers	6:00 PM
Tue, Nov 3	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 5	vs Anaheim	8:00 PM
Sat, Nov 7	vs Vancouver	10:00 PM
Mon, Nov 9	vs NY Rangers	8:00 PM
Wed, Nov 11	vs Philadelphia	9:00 PM
Sat, Nov 14	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Sun, Nov 15	@ Philadelphia	7:30 PM
Tue, Nov 17	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 19	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 21	@ Carolina	1:00 PM
Sun, Nov 22	@ St. Louis	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 24	vs Vegas	8:00 PM
Fri, Nov 27	vs Seattle	8:00 PM
Sat, Nov 28	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Tue, Dec 1	vs Buffalo	8:00 PM
Thu, Dec 3	vs Washington	8:00 PM
Sun, Dec 6	@ Chicago	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 8	@ Minnesota	9:00 PM
Thu, Dec 10	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 12	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 14	@ Montreal	7:30 PM
Thu, Dec 17	vs Dallas	8:00 PM
Sat, Dec 19	vs Utah	3:30 PM
Sun, Dec 20	vs Anaheim	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 27	@ Columbus	5:00 PM
Mon, Dec 28	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Wed, Dec 30	@ Boston	7:30 PM
Sat, Jan 2	@ Detroit	1:00 PM
Sun, Jan 3	@ Pittsburgh	3:00 PM
Tue, Jan 5	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 7	vs Florida	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 9	vs NY Islanders	3:30 PM
Mon, Jan 11	vs Tampa Bay	8:30 PM
Wed, Jan 13	vs San Jose	9:00 PM
Fri, Jan 15	vs Columbus	8:00 PM
Sun, Jan 17	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Wed, Jan 20	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Thu, Jan 21	@ Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Sat, Jan 23	@ San Jose	10:00 PM
Tue, Jan 26	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Thu, Jan 28	vs New Jersey	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 30	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Wed, Feb 3	vs Vegas	9:00 PM
Fri, Feb 12	vs St. Louis	8:00 PM
Sat, Feb 13	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Wed, Feb 17	vs Colorado	9:00 PM
Fri, Feb 19	vs Boston	8:00 PM
Mon, Feb 22	vs Ottawa	7:30 PM
Thu, Feb 25	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Sat, Feb 27	@ Dallas	3:00 PM
Mon, Mar 1	@ Chicago	8:30 PM
Wed, Mar 3	@ Calgary	8:30 PM
Sat, Mar 6	vs Chicago	10:00 PM
Tue, Mar 9	vs Los Angeles	8:00 PM
Thu, Mar 11	vs Nashville	8:00 PM
Sat, Mar 13	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Mon, Mar 15	@ Colorado	9:30 PM
Thu, Mar 18	vs St. Louis	9:00 PM
Sat, Mar 20	vs Dallas	3:30 PM
Sun, Mar 21	@ Vancouver	9:00 PM
Tue, Mar 23	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Thu, Mar 25	@ Minnesota	9:00 PM
Sat, Mar 27	vs Los Angeles	3:30 PM
Wed, Mar 31	vs San Jose	8:30 PM
Fri, Apr 2	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Sat, Apr 3	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Mon, Apr 5	vs Calgary	9:30 PM
Wed, Apr 7	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Sat, Apr 10	vs Winnipeg	10:00 PM

PHOTO BY BAKERSFIELD CONDORS

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

EDMONTON OILERS

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Frederik Andersen	36	6-4	229	Left	Herning, Den.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Carolina	35	16-14-5	3.05	.874
Ryan Cameron	19	6-2	183	Left	Berwyn, Pa.	212th overall (2026)	Cedar Rapids (USHL)	40	24-11-5	2.92	.882
Nathaniel Day	21	6-2	181	Left	Burlington, Ont.	184th overall (2023)	Fort Wayne (ECHL)	39	22-9-8	2.76	.893
Tristan Jarry	31	6-4	201	Left	Surrey, B.C.	Trade: Pit 12/12/25	Pittsburgh/Edmonton	33	18-9-3	3.32	.882
Samuel Jonsson	22	6-5	217	Left	Gavle, Swe.	158th overall (2022)	Fort Wayne (ECHL)	33	21-8-2	2.38	.910
Devon Levi	24	6-0	192	Left	Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Que.	Trade: Buf 7/1/26	Rochester (AHL)	52	23-20-12	2.83	.904
Daniel Salonen	20	6-3	185	Right	Espoo, Fin.	191st overall (2025)	Lukko (Liiga)	30	14-7-7	2.40	.887
Matt Tomkins	32	6-4	191	Left	Edmonton, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Bakersfield (AHL)	42	20-13-8	2.98	.904
Connor Ungar	24	6-0	190	Left	Calgary, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 3/18/24	Greensboro/Ft. Wayne/Orlando (ECHL)	25	11-9-2	2.33	.920
Eemil Vinni	20	6-3	187	Left	Vantaa, Fin.	64th overall (2024)	JoKP/Kettera (Fin.2)	21	10-6-5	2.65	.896

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Beau Akey	21	6-0	173	Right	Waterloo, Ont.	56th overall (2023)	Bakersfield (AHL)	42	2	8	10	22
Asher Barnett	19	6-1	198	Left	Chicago, Ill.	131st overall (2025)	Michigan (Big Ten)	40	5	13	18	14
Bauer Berry	20	6-4	198	Left	Grand Forks, N.D.	218th overall (2024)	St. Thomas (NCHC)	37	3	11	14	18
Evan Bouchard	26	6-3	192	Right	Oakville, Ont.	10th overall (2018)	Edmonton	82	21	74	95	30
Joshua Brown	32	6-5	220	Right	London, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Bakersfield (AHL)	57	2	11	13	78
Damien Carfagna	23	5-11	170	Left	Wood-Ridge, N.J.	Free Agent: signed 3/31/25	Bakersfield (AHL)	66	7	15	22	24
Tomas Cibulka	22	6-0	170	Left	Ceske Budejovice, Cze.	Free Agent: signed 3/27/26	Budejovice (Cze.)	47	7	15	22	35
Mattias Ekholm	36	6-5	225	Left	Borlange, Swe.	Trade: Nsh 2/28/23	Edmonton	82	6	35	41	30
Ty Emberson	26	6-0	193	Right	Eau Claire, Wis.	Trade: SJ 8/18/24	Edmonton	72	2	10	12	23
Paul Fischer	21	6-1	195	Left	Chicago, Ill.	Trade: StL 8/20/24	Notre Dame (Big Ten)	33	6	17	23	39
Atro Leppanen	27	6-0	183	Left	Mantta, Fin.	Free Agent: signed 4/13/25	Bakersfield (AHL)	53	11	27	38	28
Shakir Mukhamadullin	24	6-4	200	Left	Ufa, Rus.	Trade: SJ 7/1/26	San Jose	50	5	7	12	22
Connor Murphy	33	6-4	212	Right	Boston, Mass.	Trade: Chi 3/2/26	Chicago/Edmonton	80	5	12	17	71
Alec Regula	26	6-4	211	Right	West Bloomfield, Mich.	Waivers: Bos 12/11/24	Edmonton	29	0	3	3	35
Andrew Robinson	18	6-0	190	Left	Oakville, Ont.	133rd overall (2026)	Windsor (OHL)	63	9	15	24	19
Zachary Sharp	21	6-1	180	Left	Naperville, Ill.	Trade: SJ 7/1/26	Western Michigan (NCHC)	37	5	14	19	18
Ryan Shea	29	6-1	200	Left	Milton, Mass.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Pittsburgh	80	6	29	35	22
Spencer Stastney	26	6-0	184	Left	Woodbridge, Ill.	Trade: Nsh 12/12/25	Nashville/Edmonton	66	2	8	10	20
Riley Stillman	28	6-2	207	Left	Peterborough, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Bakersfield (AHL)	51	3	15	18	81
Jake Walman	30	6-1	218	Left	Toronto, Ont.	Trade: SJ 3/7/25	Edmonton	53	8	12	20	10
Nikita Yevseyev	22	6-1	187	Left	Almetyevsk, Rus.	190th overall (2022)	Khabarovsk (KHL)	61	4	12	16	43

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Rudolfs Berzkalns	18	6-4	204	Left	Valmiera, Lat.	58th overall (2026)	Muskegon (USHL)	48	13	12	25	39
Connor Clattenburg	21	6-2	215	Left	Ottawa, Ont.	160th overall (2024)	Bakersfield (AHL)	32	2	2	4	131
Colton Dach	23	6-4	218	Left	St. Albert, Alta.	Trade: Chi 3/4/26	Chicago/Edmonton	61	5	8	13	52
Jason Dickinson	31	6-2	200	Left	Georgetown, Ont.	Trade: Chi 3/4/26	Chicago/Edmonton	64	7	10	17	20
Leon Draisaitl	30	6-2	209	Left	Cologne, Ger.	3rd overall (2014)	Edmonton	65	35	62	97	26
Trent Frederic	28	6-3	221	Left	St. Louis, Mo.	Trade: Bos 3/4/25	Edmonton	74	4	3	7	58
Caden Harvey	18	6-1	183	Right	Pittsburgh, Pa.	180th overall (2026)	Windsor (OHL)	68	11	23	34	10
Mattias Janmark	33	6-2	205	Left	Danderyd, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 7/17/22	Edmonton	43	1	7	8	22
Connor McDavid	29	6-1	194	Left	Richmond Hill, Ont.	1st overall (2015)	Edmonton	82	48	90	138	44
William Nicholl	20	6-0	184	Left	Ottawa, Ont.	196th overall (2024)	London (OHL)	32	15	11	26	14
Ryan Nugent-Hopkins	33	6-1	192	Left	Burnaby, B.C.	1st overall (2011)	Edmonton	72	20	36	56	21
Aidan Park	20	6-1	188	Right	Newport Beach, Calif.	223rd overall (2025)	Michigan (Big Ten)	40	8	8	16	28
Josh Samanski	24	6-2	195	Left	Erding, Ger.	Free Agent: signed 4/2/25	Bakersfield (AHL)	45	8	23	31	40
Matt Savoie	22	5-10	179	Right	St. Albert, Alta.	Trade: Buf 7/5/24	Edmonton	82	18	19	37	24
Dalyn Wakely	22	6-0	190	Right	Port Hope, Ont.	192nd overall (2024)	UMass-Lowell (HE)	35	7	12	19	34

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Maksim Berezkin	24	6-2	201	Right	Chita, Rus.	138th overall (2020)	Yaroslavl (KHL)	64	7	25	32	18
Malcom Gastrin	18	6-0	174	Left	Ornskoldsvik, Swe.	84th overall (2026)	MoDo Jr. (Swe.)	24	9	16	25	8
Isaac Howard	22	5-10	180	Left	Hudson, Wis.	Trade: TB 7/8/25	Bakersfield (AHL)	47	24	26	50	12
Zach Hyman	34	6-1	206	Right	Toronto, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/28/21	Edmonton	58	31	21	52	28
Roby Jarventie	24	6-2	184	Left	Tampere, Fin.	Trade: Ott 7/15/24	Bakersfield (AHL)	61	23	24	47	30
Max Jones	28	6-3	216	Left	Rochester, Mich.	Trade: Bos 3/4/25	Bakersfield (AHL)	39	10	8	18	61
David Lewandowski	19	6-1	177	Left	Schwetzingen, Ger.	117th overall (2025)	Saskatoon (WHL)	57	17	48	65	42
Viljami Marjala	23	6-0	178	Left	Oulu, Fin.	Free Agent: signed 6/7/25	Bakersfield (AHL)	72	17	43	60	22

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Quinn Hutson	24	5-11	176	Right	North Barrington, Ill.	Free Agent: signed 4/14/25	Bakersfield (AHL)	67	30	33	63	84
Mathieu Joseph	29	6-1	189	Left	Laval, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	St. Louis/Los Angeles	51	2	9	11	9
Kasperi Kapanen	30	6-1	194	Right	Kuopio, Fin.	Waivers: StL 11/19/24	Edmonton	41	8	9	17	14
Tommy Lafreniere	19	5-11	172	Right	Whistler, B.C.	83rd overall (2025)	Kamloops (WHL)	67	41	36	77	22
Owen Michaels	24	6-0	179	Right	Detroit, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 4/2/26	Western Michigan (NCHC)	39	13	13	26	6
Vasily Podkolzin	25	6-1	190	Left	Moscow, Rus.	Trade: Van 8/18/24	Edmonton	82	19	18	37	63
Aku Raty	25	6-0	170	Right	Oulu, Fin.	Free Agent: signed 5/25/26	Karpat (Liiga)	51	20	37	57	36
James Stefan	23	6-0	183	Right	Atlanta, Ga.	Free Agent: signed 3/21/24	Fort Wayne (ECHL)	38	17	17	34	10
Brady Stonehouse	22	5-10	193	Left	Blenheim, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 10/5/23	Fort Wayne (ECHL)	52	7	11	18	43
Eduards Tralmaks	29	6-3	221	Left	Riga, Lat.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Grand Rapids (AHL)	64	26	16	42	14

FLORIDA PANTHERS

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2025-26 NUMBERS

RECORD
40-38-4 (.512)

OVERTIME
3-2

SHOOTOUT
5-2

OVERALL
25th

OFFENSE
3.00 GPG (18th)

DEFENSE
3.34 GAA (28th)

POWER PLAY
19.5% (19th)

PENALTY KILL
81.0% (9th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.74 (12th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.71 (17th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
S. Reinhart (21:17)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
S. Jones (23:42)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Paul Maurice

GM
Bill Zito

CAPTAIN
Aleksander Barkov

ARENA
Amerant Bank Arena

CAPACITY
19,109

AHL AFFILIATE
Charlotte Checkers

ECHL AFFILIATE
Savannah Ghost Pirates

BY DAVID DWORK

AFTER BACK-TO-BACK CHAMPIONSHIPS and three consecutive Stanley Cup final appearances, the Florida Panthers were decimated by injuries last season and ended up as a lottery team. Expected to be healthy and formidable once again this year, the Panthers took the top-10 pick their down year provided and flipped it, along with several other high draft selections, for Ottawa Senators captain Brady Tkachuk.

Adding the younger Tkachuk brother to their deep roster squarely places the Panthers back among the league's favorites to hoist the Stanley Cup. The biggest question facing the Panthers will be whether the new goaltending tandem of Jacob Markstrom and Akira Schmid can fill the skates of two-time Cup champion Sergei Bobrovsky. If the goaltending holds and the team avoids major injuries, teams in the East will have a difficult time taking down the Cats in a seven-game series come April and May.

OFFENSE

The acquisition of Brady Tkachuk puts Florida in the discussion for having one of the most talented forward groups in recent memory. Adding him to a lineup that already includes Aleksander Barkov, Matthew Tkachuk, Sam Reinhart, Brad Marchand, Sam Bennett and Carter Verhaeghe makes the Panthers even more dangerous. One of the reasons Florida has become such a powerhouse in recent years is the physicality and tenacity the team brings to

DAVID KIROUAC-IMAGN IMAGES

SETH JONES

JOHN E. SOKOLOWSKI-IMAGN IMAGES

every shift. From a formidable group of two-way centers – Barkov, Bennett and Anton Lundell – to players who personify the physical, tight-checking systems Florida runs – the Tkachuk brothers, Reinhart and Bennett – it's a group that understands the assignment and knows the success the squad will find if everyone does their job.

DEFENSE

Led by their top four of Aaron Ekblad, Gustav Forsling, Seth Jones and Niko Mikkola, the Panthers have built a strong defensive core. Both pairings will gobble up minutes and can play in all situations. Add to that a pair of reliable veterans in Radko Gudas and Dmitry Kulikov, and it's difficult to poke any holes in Florida's back end. In terms of depth, the Panthers are in good shape, as they have several blueliners with NHL experience – Uvis Balinskis, Donovan Sebrango, Tobias Bjornfot and Alexander Petrovic – who are available to jump in if needed. Outside of Petrovic, all of Florida's defensemen have played under Maurice and understand what is expected if they're called into the lineup.

GOALTENDING

The Panthers will have a new look in the crease following the departure of Bobrovsky in free agency. To replace him, the Panthers brought in a pair of large goaltenders in Markstrom and Schmid, who they feel will excel when playing behind a healthy squad. Markstrom has shown in the past he can be a top goaltender, and the Panthers have done well targeting netminders who fit the team.

SPECIAL TEAMS

It will be interesting to see how the Panthers' top power-play unit is constructed. It's safe to assume that Matthew Tkachuk will play around the crease, Reinhart will be in the bumper spot and Barkov will be along the half-wall, but if Florida wants to include Brady Tkachuk, some tweaks will be necessary. Florida has elite penalty-killers in Barkov, Reinhart, Lundell and Eetu Luostarinen, who help take pressure off Forsling, Ekblad, Mikkola, Kulikov and Gudas on the back end.

INTANGIBLES

The team that GM Bill Zito has constructed in recent years checks all the boxes. The Panthers have several elite players in the primes of their careers and a cohesive dressing room full of leaders who understand the importance of holding each other accountable. For all they can do on the ice, the Panthers' success starts before they tie their skates.

The Hockey News CUP ODDS 10/1

ROOKIES

Sandis Vilmanis will get an opportunity. He's coming off a standout season where he excelled in the AHL and earned an NHL call-up, during which he appeared in 19 games with the Panthers. He was also a key player for Latvia at both the Olympics in February and the World Championship in May.

X-FACTOR

There is no denying that a healthy Florida squad will be a problem for the rest of the league, but after enduring an injury-plagued campaign, the Panthers will now have the added advantage of starting the season with a chip on their collective shoulder. They have something to prove.

THE BRASS

Even after a down year, there couldn't be more confidence in the combination of Maurice, Zito and owner Vincent Viola. The synergy between the three has given Zito the freedom and confidence to cultivate Florida's roster into one that's built to excel in Maurice's systems.

DEPTH CHART | 2026-27

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Brady Tkachuk	1. Aleksander Barkov	1. Sam Reinhart
2. Carter Verhaeghe	2. Sam Bennett	2. Matthew Tkachuk
3. Eetu Luostarinen	3. Anton Lundell	3. Brad Marchand
4. Jonah Gadjovich	4. Lars Eller	4. Garnet Hathaway
5. Cole Reinhardt	5. Cole Schwindt	5. Sandis Vilmanis

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Aaron Ekblad	6. Dmitry Kulikov	1. Jacob Markstrom
2. Gustav Forsling	7. Uvis Balinskis	2. Akira Schmid
3. Seth Jones	8. Tobias Bjornfot	3. Cooper Black
4. Niko Mikkola	9. Donovan Sebrango	
5. Radko Gudas	10. Alexander Petrovic	

■ INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Sergei Bobrovsky, G; A.J. Greer, LW; Evan Rodrigues, C; Jesper Boqvist, C; Mackie Samoskevich, RW; Daniil Tarasov, G; Vinnie Hinostroza, C; Luke Kunin, C; Noah Gregor, LW; Mike Benning, D

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Sandis Vilmanis
Pos LW **Age** 22
2025-26 Charlotte (AHL)
Big club's injuries led to NHL opportunity. Leap in output has him eying bottom-six role.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

2. Jack Devine
Pos RW **Age** 23
2025-26 Charlotte (AHL)
Two-time Hobey Baker finalist played in AHL ASG as rookie. Destined to carve out an NHL job.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

3. Simas Ignatavicius
Pos RW **Age** 18
2025-26 Geneva (Sui.)
Minutes in Swiss League evidence of 200-foot game and long-term upside for smart pivot.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

4. Ryder Cali
Pos C **Age** 18
2025-26 North Bay (OHL)
Even he's when not scoring, he makes an impact by engaging physically. He's a project, though.
Expected NHL Arrival '30-31

5. Gracyn Sawchyn
Pos C **Age** 21
2025-26 Charlotte (AHL)
Fearless competitor brings energy to every shift. All-action pivot will be fan favorite in Florida.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

6. Matvei Shuravin
Pos D **Age** 20
2025-26 CSKA Moscow (KHL)
No rush for rearguard to leave Russian league. Reads are improving, but he's a work in progress.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

7. Linus Eriksson
Pos C **Age** 20
2025-26 Timra (SHL)
Lacks top-six sizzle, but steady center is reliable in all three zones and can work a penalty kill.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

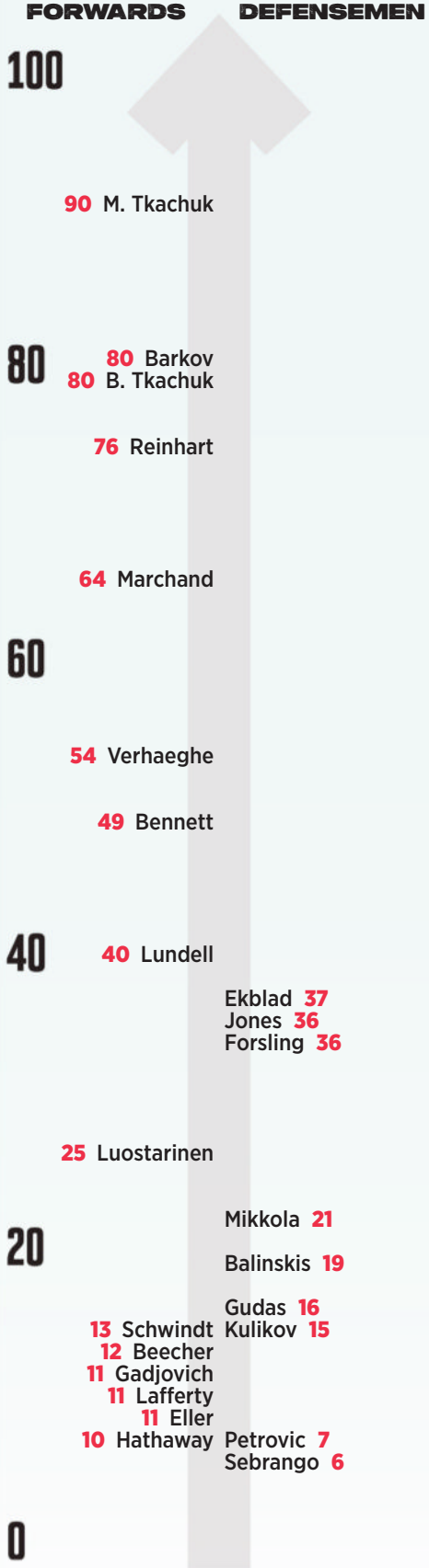
8. Jonas Kemps
Pos D **Age** 18
2025-26 Chicago (USHL)
No flash. Just a commitment to sound defense and using his 6-foot-6 frame to limit danger.
Expected NHL Arrival '31-32

9. Mads Kongsbak Klyvo
Pos LW **Age** 19
2025-26 Frolunda Jr. (Swe.)
Power forward was limited by injury but a force upon return, especially for Denmark at WJC.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

10. Tyler Muszelik
Pos G **Age** 22
2025-26 Connecticut (HE)
Underrated performance at UConn last season. Made sixth-most saves on the college circuit.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

POINTS-O-METER

2026-27 PROJECTIONS



SCHEDULE

Tue, Sept 29	@ Carolina	5:00 PM
Thu, Oct 1	@ San Jose	10:00 PM
Sun, Oct 4	@ Anaheim	8:00 PM
Tue, Oct 6	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Sat, Oct 10	vs Minnesota	6:00 PM
Mon, Oct 12	@ Buffalo	1:00 PM
Tue, Oct 13	@ Columbus	6:15 PM
Thu, Oct 15	vs Vancouver	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 17	vs Seattle	6:00 PM
Wed, Oct 21	@ Ottawa	7:30 PM
Thu, Oct 22	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sun, Oct 25	@ Chicago	3:00 PM
Tue, Oct 27	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Fri, Oct 30	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Mon, Nov 2	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 4	vs Chicago	7:30 PM
Sat, Nov 7	@ Washington	12:30 PM
Sun, Nov 8	@ Boston	1:00 PM
Tue, Nov 10	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 12	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 14	@ St. Louis	7:00 PM
Sun, Nov 15	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Tue, Nov 17	vs Edmonton	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 21	vs Buffalo	6:00 PM
Wed, Nov 25	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 27	@ Washington	3:00 PM
Sat, Nov 28	vs Tampa Bay	6:00 PM
Tue, Dec 1	@ NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 3	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 5	@ Montreal	1:00 PM
Tue, Dec 8	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 10	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 12	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 14	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 15	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 19	vs Calgary	1:00 PM
Mon, Dec 21	vs St. Louis	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 26	vs Tampa Bay	6:00 PM
Mon, Dec 28	vs Nashville	7:00 PM
Wed, Dec 30	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Fri, Jan 1	@ Nashville	2:00 PM
Sat, Jan 2	vs Montreal	4:00 PM
Tue, Jan 5	@ Calgary	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 7	@ Edmonton	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 9	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Tue, Jan 12	@ Seattle	9:40 PM
Thu, Jan 14	@ Minnesota	9:00 PM
Sat, Jan 16	vs Vegas	6:00 PM
Mon, Jan 18	vs Ottawa	7:30 PM
Thu, Jan 21	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 24	vs Los Angeles	6:00 PM
Tue, Jan 26	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Wed, Jan 27	@ NY Rangers	7:30 PM
Fri, Jan 29	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Mon, Feb 1	vs NY Islanders	1:00 PM
Wed, Feb 3	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Fri, Feb 12	vs Colorado	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 13	vs Dallas	6:00 PM
Tue, Feb 16	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 18	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 20	vs Anaheim	5:00 PM
Sun, Feb 21	vs San Jose	6:00 PM
Wed, Feb 24	@ Vegas	9:30 PM
Fri, Feb 26	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Sat, Feb 27	@ Colorado	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 2	vs Utah	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 4	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 6	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 9	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Fri, Mar 12	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 15	@ Toronto	7:30 PM
Tue, Mar 16	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 18	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 20	@ Buffalo	1:00 PM
Tue, Mar 23	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 25	vs NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 27	vs Philadelphia	6:00 PM
Tue, Mar 30	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 1	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 3	@ NY Rangers	12:00 PM
Sun, Apr 4	@ New Jersey	4:30 PM
Tue, Apr 6	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Fri, Apr 9	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 10	vs Carolina	6:00 PM

PHOTO BY CHARLOTTE CHECKERS

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

FLORIDA PANTHERS

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Cooper Black	25	6-8	223	Left	Alpena, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 4/2/24	Charlotte (AHL)	42	25-13-4	2.47	.903
Louis-Antoine Denault	20	6-8	215	Left	Quebec, Que.	217th overall (2026)	Quebec/Newfoundland (QMJHL)	42	22-16-3	2.69	.912
Denis Gabdrakhmanov	21	6-3	187	Left	Nizhny Tagil, Rus.	201st overall (2024)	Tyumen (Rus.2)	33	11-10-7	2.13	.921
Kirill Gerasimyuk	23	6-2	178	Left	St. Petersburg, Rus.	152nd overall (2021)	Charlotte (AHL)	19	9-6-1	2.50	.901
Olof Glifford	21	6-4	191	Left	Huskvarna, Swe.	159th overall (2023)	Oskarshamn (Swe.2)	29	14-15-0	2.46	.904
Jacob Markstrom	36	6-6	207	Left	Gavle, Swe.	Trade: NJ 6/30/26	New Jersey	44	23-19-1	3.07	.883
Yegor Midlak	19	6-6	176	Left	Tver, Rus.	224th overall (2025)	Spartak-MAH Moscow Jr. (Rus.)	20	5-5-2	3.60	.909
Tyler Muszelik	22	6-3	195	Left	Long Valley, N.J.	189th overall (2022)	Connecticut (HE)	35	19-11-5	2.21	.926
Akira Schmid	26	6-5	205	Left	Bern, Sui.	Trade: Veg 6/29/26	Vegas	34	16-10-6	2.59	.893

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Marek Alscher	22	6-3	206	Left	Slany, Cze.	93rd overall (2022)	Charlotte (AHL)	52	3	8	11	32
Uvis Balinskis	30	6-0	196	Left	Ventspils, Lat.	Free Agent: signed 4/18/23	Florida	54	5	10	15	30
Tobias Bjornfot	25	6-0	200	Left	Upplands Vasby, Swe.	Waivers: Veg 3/8/24	Charlotte (AHL)	33	4	8	12	10
Luke Coughlin	21	5-10	170	Left	Charlottetown, P.E.I.	191st overall (2023)	Maine (HE)	10	0	2	2	0
Brendan Dunphy	20	6-5	207	Left	Bellingham, Wash.	197th overall (2025)	Connecticut (HE)	37	2	4	6	20
Aaron Ekblad	30	6-4	220	Right	Windsor, Ont.	1st overall (2014)	Florida	72	4	22	26	55
Casey Fitzgerald	29	6-0	187	Right	North Reading, Mass.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Hartford (AHL)	71	4	19	23	85
Gustav Forsling	30	6-1	199	Left	Linkoping, Swe.	Waivers: Car 1/9/21	Florida	80	2	26	28	51
Radko Gudas	36	6-0	208	Right	Prague, Cze.	Trade: Ana 6/29/26	Anaheim	56	2	11	13	67
Mikulas Hovorka	25	6-6	229	Right	Prague, Cze.	Free Agent: signed 4/10/24	Charlotte (AHL)	57	5	13	18	46
Ludvig Jansson	22	6-0	176	Right	Stockholm, Swe.	125th overall (2022)	Charlotte (AHL)	31	3	8	11	12
Seth Jones	31	6-4	213	Right	Arlington, Texas	Trade: Chi 3/1/25	Florida	52	7	25	32	18
Jonas Kemps	18	6-6	195	Left	Sebastopol, Calif.	98th overall (2026)	Chicago (USHL)	57	2	7	9	52
Dmitry Kulikov	35	6-1	212	Left	Lipetsk, Rus.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Florida	19	0	0	0	10
Vladislav Lukashevich	23	6-2	167	Left	Magadan, Rus.	120th overall (2021)	Miami-Ohio (NCHC)	33	2	19	21	18
Niko Mikkola	30	6-6	204	Left	Kiiminki, Fin.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Florida	68	3	8	11	47
Alexander Petrovic	34	6-5	211	Right	Edmonton, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/26	Dallas	54	2	8	10	47
Emil Pieniniemi	21	6-3	180	Left	Kuopio, Fin.	Trade: Pit 6/13/26	Wheeling (ECHL)	26	6	5	11	4
Donovan Sebrango	24	6-2	221	Left	Ottawa, Ont.	Waivers: Ott 10/15/25	Ottawa/Florida	42	0	8	8	68
Matvei Shuravin	20	6-4	218	Left	Moscow, Rus.	97th overall (2024)	CSKA Moscow (KHL)	21	0	1	1	4
Albert Wikman	21	6-1	191	Left	Arvika, Swe.	127th overall (2023)	Farjestad (SHL)	46	3	2	5	6

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Aleksander Barkov	31	6-3	214	Left	Tampere, Fin.	2nd overall (2013)	Florida			DNP		
Johnny Beecher	25	6-3	216	Left	Elmira, N.Y.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Boston/Calgary	35	3	4	7	31
Sam Bennett	30	6-1	193	Left	Holland Landing, Ont.	Trade: Cgy 4/12/21	Florida	76	26	32	58	82
Ryder Cali	18	6-2	219	Left	Lugano, Sui.	48th overall (2026)	North Bay (OHL)	47	16	20	36	24
Lars Eller	37	6-2	208	Left	Rodovre, Den.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Ottawa	68	5	10	15	12
Linus Eriksson	20	6-0	183	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	58th overall (2024)	Timra (SHL)	43	2	5	7	12
Stepan Gorbunov	20	6-5	196	Left	Chelyabinsk, Rus.	169th overall (2024)	Chelyabinsk (KHL)	29	2	0	2	4
Sam Lafferty	31	6-2	205	Right	Hollidaysburg, Pa.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Chicago	29	1	1	2	14
Anton Lundell	24	6-1	196	Left	Espoo, Fin.	12th overall (2020)	Florida	64	18	26	44	34
Eetu Luostarinen	28	6-3	191	Left	Siilinjarvi, Fin.	Trade: Car 2/24/20	Florida	73	11	22	33	32
Sam Reinhart	30	6-1	196	Right	West Vancouver, B.C.	Trade: Buf 7/24/21	Florida	64	29	32	61	10
Gracyn Sawchyn	21	5-11	157	Right	Grande Prairie, Alta.	63rd overall (2023)	Charlotte (AHL)	35	6	17	23	12
Simon Zether	20	6-3	186	Right	Helsingborg, Swe.	129th overall (2024)	Rogle (SHL)	40	1	8	9	12

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Shea Busch	19	6-2	208	Left	North Vancouver, B.C.	128th overall (2025)	Everett (WHL)	12	13	5	18	10
Angus Crookshank	26	5-10	183	Left	North Vancouver, B.C.	Trade: NJ 6/30/26	Utica (AHL)	60	24	12	36	14
Jonah Gadjovich	27	6-3	211	Left	Whitby, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 10/16/23	Florida	10	0	3	3	7
Bokondji Imama	30	6-1	221	Left	Montreal, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (AHL)	66	6	5	11	137
Mads Kongsbak Klyvo	19	6-2	194	Left	Frederikshavn, Den.	112th overall (2025)	Frolunda Jr. (Swe.)	15	4	10	14	2
Brad Marchand	38	5-9	180	Left	Halifax, N.S.	Trade: Bos 3/7/25	Florida	52	27	27	54	38
Cole Reinhardt	26	6-1	207	Left	Calgary, Alta.	Waivers: Veg 3/6/26	Vegas/Florida	59	9	6	15	21
Kai Schwindt	22	6-6	197	Left	Kitchener, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 9/30/22	Charlotte (AHL)	33	2	5	7	6
Hunter St. Martin	21	6-1	174	Left	Edmonton, Alta.	193rd overall (2024)	Charlotte (AHL)	46	5	8	13	33
Brady Tkachuk	27	6-4	225	Left	Scottsdale, Ariz.	Trade: Ott 6/21/26	Ottawa	60	22	37	59	71
Matthew Tkachuk	28	6-2	202	Left	Scottsdale, Ariz.	Trade: Cgy 7/22/22	Florida	31	13	21	34	48
Carter Verhaeghe	31	6-2	183	Left	Toronto, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 10/9/20	Florida	77	25	30	55	32
Sandis Vilmanis	22	6-1	192	Left	Riga, Lat.	157th overall (2022)	Charlotte (AHL)	48	17	21	38	26

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Jack Devine	23	5-11	173	Right	Glencoe, Ill.	221st overall (2022)	Charlotte (AHL)	63	18	25	43	57
Arvid Drott	19	6-0	183	Right	Stockholm, Swe.	192nd overall (2025)	Djurgarden Jr. (Swe.)	28	15	10	25	34
MacKenzie Entwistle	27	6-3	203	Right	Georgetown, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/24	Charlotte (AHL)	49	5	6	11	41
Garnet Hathaway	34	6-2	212	Right	Naples, Fla.	Trade: Phi 6/25/26	Philadelphia	66	1	2	3	59
Simas Ignatavicius	18	6-3	198	Right	Memphis, Tenn.	40th overall (2026)	Geneva (Sui.)	52	7	6	13	43
Shamar Moses	19	6-1	200	Right	Scarborough, Ont.	129th overall (2025)	North Bay (OHL)	48	8	10	18	60
Cole Schwindt	25	6-2	182	Right	Kitchener, Ont.	Waivers: Veg 10/3/25	Florida	29	5	2	7	2
Vilho Vanhatalo	18	6-3	187	Left	Tampere, Fin.	168th overall (2026)	Tappara Jr. (Fin.)	38	10	9	19	43
Cole Zurawski	18	6-1	193	Right	Barrie, Ont.	181st overall (2026)	Owen Sound (OHL)	63	24	22	46	34

LOS ANGELES KINGS

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2025-26 NUMBERS

RECORD
35-27-20 (.549)

OVERTIME
8-11

SHOOTOUT
5-9

OVERALL
20th

OFFENSE
2.68 GPG (29th)

DEFENSE
2.90 GAA (8th)

POWER PLAY
17.0% (28th)

PENALTY KILL
74.6% (30th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.65 (18th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.43 (5th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
A. Panarin (20:42)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
D. Doughty (23:05)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Peter Laviolette

GM
Ken Holland

CAPTAIN
Vacant

ARENA
Crypto.com Arena

CAPACITY
18,118

AHL AFFILIATE
Ontario Reign

ECHL AFFILIATE
Greenville Swamp Rabbits

BY DOUG WARD

AFTER A FIFTH CONSECUTIVE first-round ouster, the Los Angeles Kings found themselves outside the castle again, far from their glory days of 2012 and 2014. It's left to new coach Peter Laviolette to build a bridge to the next era.

Laviolette will go the quick-fix route as opposed to a slow rebuild, but the retirement of Anze Kopitar left a hole that won't be easy to spackle over. Brandt Clarke, who inked a five-year, $37-million extension, will anchor both the blueline and the future. With Adrian Kempe, Artemi Panarin, Kevin Fiala and Quinton Byfield in the fold, Laviolette has the pieces to elevate the scoring and change the identity of a historically defensive team. The additions of Erik Haula, Mats Zuccarello and Corey Perry will add firepower. If Laviolette can get the Kings past the first round, it will feel like old times and a new day all at once.

OFFENSE

With a history of orchestrating quick upticks in offensive production, Laviolette figures to make an immediate impact after the Kings averaged just 2.68 goals per game last year, which ranked 29th. The team will benefit from a full season with Panarin, who thrived playing Laviolette's upbeat brand in New York. Kempe is coming off seasons of 35 and 36 goals, so reviving the attack is achievable. Kopitar's retirement leaves a hole at center, so Byfield will be challenged to level up his game. When Fiala sustained a

BOB FRID-IMAGN IMAGES

SERGEI BELSKI-IMAGN IMAGES

season-ending injury at the Olympics in Milan, the power outage was felt in Los Angeles: the Kings managed just five goals while being swept by Colorado in the playoffs. Zuccarello, who signed a one-year deal, will help, and Clarke is on the rise.

DEFENSE

The Kings' foundation has always been built on a strong defense, but with those five playoff flops, Laviolette wasn't hired to run it back. Clarke is delivering on his promise, having posted a 40-point season while playing in all 82 regular-season games. He was also one of the Kings' few reliable puck carriers on the blueline and ranked third in the league in blocked shots. Signing the two-way defenseman to a five-year extension was vital. Drew Doughty, 36, is in the final year of his contract, and his partner, Mikey Anderson, who played in 80 games, is gradually taking on more responsibility. Anderson had four goals and 20 points while consistently breaking up plays against the opponent's top lines.

GOALTENDING

The twin masks of comedy and tragedy symbolized Darcy Kuemper's season in goal, as the now-36-year-old hit both ends of the spectrum. Kuemper was at his best much of the year, earning a spot on Canada's Olympic team, but he was slow to regain his form after a January collision with Jonny Brodzinski. Anton Forsberg gained confidence, which sets up a competition with Kuemper for the bulk of the workload this year.

SPECIAL TEAMS

A black hole for the Kings last season, special teams will be a focal point for Laviolette. The power play, which ranked 28th overall with a 17-percent success rate, needs to improve. It has the chance to be dramatically better, as Hall of Famer Phil Housley was brought in as part of Laviolette's staff. A full season of Panarin will also have an impact. The penalty kill was even worse, ranking 30th with a 74.6-percent success rate. New assistant Chris Hajt and the addition of Haula will go a long way toward improving the shorthanded efforts.

INTANGIBLES

Kopitar wore the 'C' coming out of the championship era, providing a smooth transition from Dustin Brown's time as captain, but both are gone now. A possible replacement is Doughty, the lone remaining player from the Cup runs and the best D-man in team history. But with a new coach, the Kings might look to an up-and-comer like Anderson as their next leader. Kempe and Scott Laughton are also good in the room.

The Hockey News CUP ODDS 37/1

ROOKIES

Kenny Connors should help fill the need for depth at center, while Jared Wright will also figure into the mix up front. Angus Booth will challenge for a roster spot on defense. In goal, Erik Portillo is ready, but Carter George and Hampton Slukynsky are at least a year away from the NHL.

X-FACTOR

If Laviolette can dial up the offense, a quick turnaround in L.A. is a distinct possibility. A full season of Panarin under a familiar coach could go a long way toward changing the team's identity. There is also an opportunity for Byfield and Clarke to take the next step.

THE BRASS

Laviolette, president Luc Robitaille, GM Ken Holland and owner Philip Anschutz all have their fingerprints on the Stanley Cup, so they know what it takes to win. To make a run this year, all the new pieces need to fall into place.

DEPTH CHART | 2026-27

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Artemi Panarin	1. Quinton Byfield	1. Adrian Kempe
2. Kevin Fiala	2. Erik Haula	2. Mats Zuccarello
3. Trevor Moore	3. Scott Laughton	3. Alex Laferriere
4. Joel Armia	4. Alex Turcotte	4. Corey Perry
5. Jared Wright	5. Samuel Helenius	5. Taylor Ward

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Drew Doughty	6. Cody Ceci	1. Darcy Kuemper
2. Mikey Anderson	7. Erik Gustafsson	2. Anton Forsberg
3. Brandt Clarke	8. Scott Perunovich	3. Erik Portillo
4. Joel Edmundson	9. Angus Booth	
5. Brian Dumoulin	10. Henry Brzustewicz	

■ INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Anze Kopitar, C; Andrei Kuzmenko, LW; Jeff Malott, LW; Jacob Moverare, D; Mathieu Joseph, RW

GARY BETTMAN &
ELTON HERMANSSON

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Elton Hermansson
Pos RW **Age** 18
2025-26 MoDo (Swe.2)
Top forward at U-18s has game-breaking puck skills and elite-level playmaking vision.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

2. Henry Brzustewicz
Pos D **Age** 19
2025-26 London (OHL)
Brief AHL stint provides understanding of where game needs work. Solid but unspectacular.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

3. Hampton Slukynsky
Pos G **Age** 21
2025-26 W. Michigan (NCHC)
Small sample, but stopping 44 of 46 shots in two AHL games a promising start to pro career.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

4. Carter George
Pos G **Age** 20
2025-26 Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)
Disappointing campaign in OHL and WJC, but level-headed keeper has plenty of potential.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

5. Liam Lefebvre
Pos C **Age** 19
2025-26 Chicoutimi (QMJHL)
Point-per-gamer as 'Q' rookie. Tricky shooter with projectable size and edge to his game.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

6. Vojtech Cihar
Pos LW **Age** 19
2025-26 Kelowna (WHL)
The WJC MVP elevated Rockets' attack upon arrival and was especially lethal in playoffs.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

7. Adam Goljer
Pos D **Age** 18
2025-26 Trencin (Svk.)
He has no signature attribute, but work ethic sees him squeeze everything out of his game.
Expected NHL Arrival '30-31

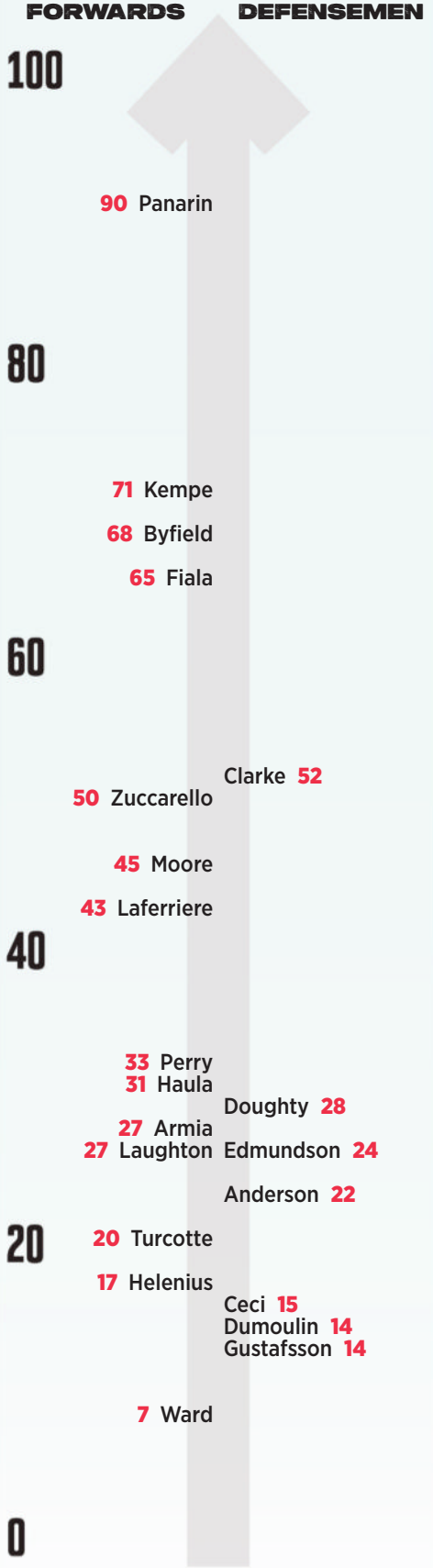
8. Kenny Connors
Pos C **Age** 23
2025-26 Ontario (AHL)
Late-bloomer earned NHL look with strong output and responsible play in first AHL campaign.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

9. Blake Zielinski
Pos C **Age** 18
2025-26 Des Moines (USHL)
Wicked release and heavy shot. Has mobility concerns and needs to round out defensive game.
Expected NHL Arrival '30-31

10. Yegor Rybkin
Pos G **Age** 18
2025-26 Niz. Novgorod Jr. (Rus.)
Little daylight behind 6-foot-6 keeper. Limited starts last season, but his upside is clear.
Expected NHL Arrival '31-32

POINTS-O-METER

2026-27 PROJECTIONS



SCHEDULE

Wed, Sept 30	@ Colorado	10:00 PM
Sat, Oct 3	@ San Jose	10:00 PM
Tue, Oct 6	vs Florida	10:30 PM
Sat, Oct 10	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Tue, Oct 13	vs Edmonton	10:30 PM
Sat, Oct 17	vs Boston	9:00 PM
Tue, Oct 20	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 22	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Sat, Oct 24	@ New Jersey	3:30 PM
Mon, Oct 26	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 27	@ Chicago	8:00 PM
Thu, Oct 29	vs Ottawa	10:00 PM
Sat, Oct 31	vs Buffalo	4:00 PM
Wed, Nov 4	vs San Jose	10:00 PM
Sat, Nov 7	vs Pittsburgh	9:00 PM
Tue, Nov 10	vs Nashville	10:00 PM
Thu, Nov 12	vs NY Islanders	10:00 PM
Sat, Nov 14	vs Calgary	10:00 PM
Tue, Nov 17	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 19	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 21	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Mon, Nov 23	@ Montreal	7:30 PM
Fri, Nov 27	@ Anaheim	4:00 PM
Sat, Nov 28	vs Anaheim	9:00 PM
Tue, Dec 1	vs Vegas	10:00 PM
Thu, Dec 3	vs Minnesota	10:00 PM
Sat, Dec 5	vs Utah	10:00 PM
Wed, Dec 9	vs San Jose	10:00 PM
Fri, Dec 11	@ San Jose	10:00 PM
Sat, Dec 12	vs Vancouver	10:00 PM
Tue, Dec 15	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 17	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 19	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 20	@ Buffalo	6:00 PM
Tue, Dec 22	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Sat, Dec 26	vs Utah	10:00 PM
Mon, Dec 28	@ Vancouver	9:30 PM
Wed, Dec 30	vs Toronto	10:00 PM
Sat, Jan 2	vs New Jersey	9:00 PM
Mon, Jan 4	vs Philadelphia	10:00 PM
Wed, Jan 6	vs Washington	10:00 PM
Sat, Jan 9	vs Dallas	9:00 PM
Mon, Jan 11	vs NY Rangers	10:00 PM
Wed, Jan 13	vs St. Louis	10:00 PM
Fri, Jan 15	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Sat, Jan 16	@ Calgary	10:00 PM
Tue, Jan 19	vs Seattle	10:00 PM
Thu, Jan 21	vs Edmonton	10:00 PM
Sat, Jan 23	@ Nashville	5:00 PM
Sun, Jan 24	@ Florida	6:00 PM
Tue, Jan 26	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 28	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 30	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Mon, Feb 8	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Tue, Feb 9	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Thu, Feb 11	vs Detroit	10:00 PM
Sat, Feb 13	vs Chicago	6:00 PM
Mon, Feb 15	vs Calgary	10:00 PM
Wed, Feb 17	@ Winnipeg	7:30 PM
Thu, Feb 18	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Sat, Feb 20	vs Seattle	10:30 PM
Wed, Feb 24	vs Montreal	10:00 PM
Fri, Feb 26	@ Chicago	8:00 PM
Sat, Feb 27	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Mon, Mar 1	vs Anaheim	10:00 PM
Wed, Mar 3	vs Tampa Bay	10:00 PM
Fri, Mar 5	vs Columbus	10:00 PM
Sun, Mar 7	vs Colorado	3:30 PM
Tue, Mar 9	@ Edmonton	8:00 PM
Thu, Mar 11	@ Seattle	9:40 PM
Sat, Mar 13	vs Dallas	9:00 PM
Tue, Mar 16	vs Winnipeg	10:00 PM
Thu, Mar 18	vs Carolina	10:00 PM
Sun, Mar 21	@ Seattle	8:00 PM
Tue, Mar 23	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Thu, Mar 25	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Sat, Mar 27	@ Edmonton	3:30 PM
Mon, Mar 29	vs Vancouver	9:30 PM
Wed, Mar 31	vs Winnipeg	10:00 PM
Fri, Apr 2	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Sat, Apr 3	vs St. Louis	10:30 PM
Tue, Apr 6	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Thu, Apr 8	vs Vegas	10:00 PM
Sat, Apr 10	@ Vegas	10:30 PM

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ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

LOS ANGELES KINGS

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Anton Forsberg	33	6-3	198	Left	Harnosand, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Los Angeles	36	16-12-5	2.57	.910
Carter George	20	6-1	196	Left	Thunder Bay, Ont.	57th overall (2024)	Owen Sound/Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)	46	23-17-5	2.73	.907
Darcy Kuemper	36	6-5	215	Left	Saskatoon, Sask.	Trade: Wsh 6/19/24	Los Angeles	50	19-14-15	2.78	.891
Erik Portillo	26	6-6	218	Left	Gothenburg, Swe.	Trade: Buf 3/1/23	Ontario (AHL)	30	18-7-4	2.45	.907
Petteri Rimpinen	20	6-0	176	Left	Kirkkonummi, Fin.	152nd overall (2025)	Kiekko-Espoo (Liiga)	35	13-11-11	2.29	.911
Yegor Rybkin	18	6-6	212	Right	Yegoryevsk, Rus.	89th overall (2026)	Nizhny Novgorod Jr. (Rus.)	11	5-2-0	2.56	.915
Hampton Slukynsky	21	6-1	179	Left	Roseau, Minn.	118th overall (2023)	Western Michigan (NCHC)	39	27-11-1	2.30	.915

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Lucas Ambrosio	18	6-4	194	Left	Mississauga, Ont.	223rd overall (2026)	Erie (OHL)	64	1	19	20	63
Mikey Anderson	27	6-0	195	Left	Roseville, Minn.	103rd overall (2017)	Los Angeles	80	4	16	20	22
Angus Booth	22	6-0	177	Left	Montreal, Que.	116th overall (2022)	Ontario (AHL)	61	1	17	18	40
Henry Brzustewicz	19	6-2	203	Right	Washington Twp., Mich.	31st overall (2025)	London (OHL)	59	19	35	54	57
Cody Ceci	32	6-3	210	Right	Ottawa, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Los Angeles	82	1	8	9	16
Brandt Clarke	23	6-2	200	Right	Nepean, Ont.	8th overall (2021)	Los Angeles	82	8	32	40	63
Drew Doughty	36	6-1	210	Right	London, Ont.	2nd overall (2008)	Los Angeles	72	5	18	23	40
Brian Dumoulin	35	6-4	214	Left	Biddeford, Maine	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Los Angeles	82	2	15	17	22
Jakub Dvorak	21	6-5	203	Left	Liberec, Cze.	54th overall (2023)	Ontario (AHL)	45	4	3	7	41
Joel Edmundson	33	6-5	221	Left	Brandon, Man.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Los Angeles	82	2	21	23	25
Adam Goljer	18	6-3	194	Right	Trencin, Svk.	49th overall (2026)	Trencin (Svk.)	43	4	7	11	40
Erik Gustafsson	34	6-1	189	Left	Nynashamn, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Grand Rapids (AHL)	39	4	33	37	32
Caeden Herrington	20	6-2	204	Right	Manchester, Vt.	120th overall (2025)	Vermont (HE)	34	1	7	8	16
Joe Hicketts	30	5-8	176	Left	Kamloops, B.C.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/23	Ontario (AHL)	67	4	17	21	61
Kirill Kirsanov	24	6-1	198	Left	Tver, Rus.	84th overall (2021)	Ontario (AHL)	68	4	9	13	10
Giorgos Pantelas	18	6-2	210	Right	Laval, Que.	153rd overall (2026)	Brandon (WHL)	68	6	31	37	50
Scott Perunovich	28	5-10	175	Left	Hibbing, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Tucson (AHL)	64	9	40	49	54
Otto Salin	22	5-11	187	Right	Helsinki, Fin.	148th overall (2022)	Ontario (AHL)	43	3	2	5	22
Will Sharpe	19	6-0	195	Left	Vancouver, B.C.	216th overall (2025)	Kelowna/Vancouver (WHL)	59	5	24	29	44
Jack Sparkes	22	6-7	227	Right	Ottawa, Ont.	180th overall (2022)	Clarkson (ECAC)	37	0	2	2	42
Vertti Svensk	18	6-0	169	Left	Joensuu, Fin.	145th overall (2026)	SaiPa Jr. (Fin.)	33	3	28	31	80
Jared Woolley	20	6-4	214	Left	Oshawa, Ont.	164th overall (2024)	London/Kitchener (OHL)	66	12	24	36	74

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Quinton Byfield	24	6-5	225	Left	Newmarket, Ont.	2nd overall (2020)	Los Angeles	79	24	25	49	46
Jan Chovan	19	6-2	185	Left	Bratislava, Svk.	184th overall (2025)	Sudbury (OHL)	60	28	27	55	14
Kenny Connors	23	6-1	199	Left	Glen Mills, Pa.	103rd overall (2022)	Ontario (AHL)	65	15	26	41	30
Cole Guttman	27	5-9	167	Right	Northridge, Calif.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Ontario (AHL)	67	24	29	53	52
Samuel Helenius	23	6-6	201	Left	Dallas, Texas	59th overall (2021)	Los Angeles	53	5	4	9	50
Scott Laughton	32	6-1	191	Left	Oakville, Ont.	Trade: Tor 3/6/26	Toronto/Los Angeles	64	13	7	20	31
Kaleb Lawrence	23	6-7	230	Left	Ottawa, Ont.	215th overall (2022)	Ontario/Rochester (AHL)	27	0	3	3	54
Liam Lefebvre	19	6-3	203	Right	Montreal, Que.	46th overall (2026)	Rimouski/Chicoutimi (QMJHL)	59	32	27	59	86
Jimmy Lombardi	19	6-0	175	Left	Toronto, Ont.	125th overall (2025)	Flint (OHL)	65	36	36	72	69
Brendan McMorrow	20	6-0	173	Left	Lakeville, Minn.	196th overall (2025)	Denver (NCHC)	27	3	8	11	6
Lane Pederson	29	6-1	196	Right	Saskatoon, Sask.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Lehigh Valley (AHL)	63	23	25	48	44
Francesco Pinelli	23	6-0	185	Left	Hamilton, Ont.	42nd overall (2021)	Ontario (AHL)	65	14	21	35	50
Grant Slukynsky	24	6-1	198	Left	Edina, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 4/2/26	Western Michigan (NCHC)	39	10	30	40	8
Alex Turcotte	25	5-11	185	Left	Elk Grove, Ill.	5th overall (2019)	Los Angeles	62	3	11	14	21
Thomas Vandenberg	18	6-0	178	Left	Ottawa, Ont.	103rd overall (2026)	Ottawa (OHL)	59	25	25	50	20
Blake Zielinski	18	6-0	188	Right	Berlin, N.J.	80th overall (2026)	Des Moines (USHL)	53	25	30	55	33

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Vojtech Cihar	19	6-0	175	Left	Chomutov, Cze.	59th overall (2025)	Kelowna (WHL)	31	12	19	31	14
Kristian Epperson	20	6-0	183	Left	Mequon, Wis.	88th overall (2025)	Denver (NCHC)	40	11	11	22	14
Kevin Fiala	30	6-0	205	Left	St. Gallen, Sui.	Trade: Min 6/29/22	Los Angeles	56	18	22	40	34
Erik Haula	35	5-11	191	Left	Pori, Fin.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Nashville	81	14	24	38	64
Andre Lee	26	6-5	206	Left	Karlstad, Swe.	188th overall (2019)	Ontario (AHL)	65	26	22	48	47
Trevor Moore	31	5-11	195	Left	Thousand Oaks, Calif.	Trade: Tor 2/5/20	Los Angeles	69	13	19	32	8
Artemi Panarin	34	6-0	177	Right	Korkino, Rus.	Trade: NYR 2/4/26	NY Rangers/Los Angeles	78	28	56	84	20

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Joel Armia	33	6-3	216	Right	Pori, Fin.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Los Angeles	67	13	12	25	30
Martin Chromiak	24	6-0	187	Right	Ilava, Svk.	128th overall (2020)	Ontario (AHL)	71	28	28	56	14
Ryan Conmy	21	5-10	188	Right	Fort Walton Beach, Fla.	182nd overall (2023)	Boston College (HE)	35	9	18	27	10
Elton Hermansson	18	6-1	181	Right	Ornskoldsvik, Swe.	19th overall (2026)	MoDo (Swe.2)	38	11	10	21	22
Aatu Jamsen	24	6-1	154	Left	Lahti, Fin.	190th overall (2020)	Ontario (AHL)	59	16	12	28	26
Jan Jenik	26	6-2	199	Left	Nymburk, Cze.	Trade: Ott 3/12/26	Belleville/Ontario (AHL)	43	9	8	17	29
Adrian Kempe	30	6-2	200	Left	Kramfors, Swe.	29th overall (2014)	Los Angeles	81	36	37	73	58
Alex Kostov	20	6-4	194	Right	Mississauga, Ont.	177th overall (2026)	Flint (OHL)	47	24	31	55	48
Tobias Krestan	18	6-2	195	Right	Hanau, Ger.	209th overall (2026)	HV71 Jr. (Swe.)	21	8	10	18	2
Alex Laferriere	24	6-1	205	Right	Chatham, N.J.	83rd overall (2020)	Los Angeles	82	21	23	44	18
Corey Perry	41	6-3	208	Right	Peterborough, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Los Angeles/Tampa Bay	72	17	20	37	81
James Reeder	20	5-10	168	Right	Glenview, Ill.	198th overall (2024)	Denver (NCHC)	43	10	23	33	4
Taylor Ward	28	6-2	207	Right	Kelowna, B.C.	Free Agent: signed 3/19/22	Los Angeles	36	3	4	7	7
Jared Wright	23	6-1	178	Right	Burnsville, Minn.	169th overall (2022)	Ontario (AHL)	54	17	13	30	11
Koehn Ziemmer	21	6-0	202	Right	Mayerthorpe, Alta.	78th overall (2023)	Ontario (AHL)	57	11	13	24	27
Mats Zuccarello	39	5-8	181	Left	Oslo, Nor.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Minnesota	59	15	39	54	20

MINNESOTA WILD

2025-26 NUMBERS

RECORD
46-24-12 (.634)

OVERTIME
11-7

SHOOTOUT
4-5

OVERALL
7th

OFFENSE
3.27 GPG (11th)

DEFENSE
2.87 GAA (4th)

POWER PLAY
25.2% (3rd)

PENALTY KILL
79.8% (16th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.80 (9th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.64 (14th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
K. Kaprizov (22:09)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
Q. Hughes (27:54)

FAST FACTS

COACH
John Hynes

GM
Bill Guerin

CAPTAIN
Jared Spurgeon

ARENA
Grand Casino Arena

CAPACITY
18,300

AHL AFFILIATE
Iowa Wild

ECHL AFFILIATE
Jacksonville Icemen

KIRILL KAPRIZOV

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BY SARAH MCLELLAN

THE MINNESOTA WILD ARE finally Stanley Cup contenders. Kirill Kaprizov signed a record-breaking extension, Matt Boldy became a 40-goal scorer and Jesper Wallstedt proved he's ready to be a starting goaltender. But nothing transformed the Wild more last season than the team making the biggest trade in franchise history by bringing in superstar defenseman Quinn Hughes from Vancouver for Marco Rossi, Liam Ohgren, Zeev Buium and a 2026 first-round pick.

For the first time in 11 years, the Wild won a playoff series, eliminating Dallas in six games before getting knocked out in the second round by another Central Division rival in Colorado. They went from good to great, but the Wild aren't satisfied by the long-awaited strides they made. Their roster turnover during the off-season made that clear, as management continued to tweak a veteran lineup that will once again be expected to compete for the organization's first championship.

OFFENSE

Kaprizov will kick off his eight-year, $136-million contract ($17-million AAV) with a new challenge. The Wild decided to move on from his longtime linemate Mats Zuccarello, with the playmaker joining Los Angeles on a one-year deal. Zuccarello assisted on 40 percent of Kaprizov's goals, and the pair's chemistry led the Wild for years, but Kaprizov still delivered in recent seasons when Zuc-

SERGEI BELSKI-IMAGN IMAGES

carello was injured. Plus, Kaprizov is not alone at the helm of the Wild offense. Boldy is coming off a career year and emerged as a two-way specialist; Hughes' vision and passing ability made the Wild even more dynamic, especially from the blueline; and Brock Faber also racked up 15 goals.

DEFENSE

With an already-stingy D-corps, the Wild became deeper on the back end after adding Hughes. Hughes and Faber formed one of the NHL's most effective pairings by being a duo that had a knack for playing more offense than defense. But the Wild's depth was key, too, as Zach Bogosian and Jonas Brodin both missed good chunks of time. The Wild had trouble keeping the puck out of their net against the Avalanche, and their back end will look different after the team traded Jake Middleton and picks to Calgary for Blake Coleman and Olli Maatta. Maatta, a two-time Stanley Cup champion with Pittsburgh, is a defensive defenseman known for making a clean first pass.

GOALTENDING

After an impressive rookie season in which he won 18 games, posted four shutouts and had the second-best save percentage (.916) among goalies who played more than five games, Wallstedt went from backing up Filip Gustavsson to being the Wild's starter in the playoffs. That experience will come in handy, as Wallstedt is set to be the Wild's go-to man after Gustavsson underwent hip surgery. The Wild signed Calvin Pickard to back up Wallstedt while Gustavsson is on the mend.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Hughes immediately took over as the quarterback of the top power-play unit after his arrival and had a massive impact. The Wild finished with their best ranking in franchise history at third overall (25.2 percent). They'll have to adjust to Zuccarello's absence, but the Wild still have vital contributors in Kaprizov, Boldy and Joel Eriksson Ek, who serves as their screen in front of the net. As for the penalty kill, that remains a work in progress, but the Wild did look better after integrating Boldy, Michael McCarron and Nick Foligno.

INTANGIBLES

Getting past the first round of the playoffs was a huge breakthrough for the Wild. That experience will help them battle in a tough Central Division as they play with a newfound conviction that comes with being a contender. That confidence is especially apparent after Boldy, Faber and Hughes helped guide the United States to their first Olympic gold medal in men's hockey since 1980.

The Hockey News CUP ODDS 14/1

ROOKIES

Charlie Stramel, the Wild's first-round pick from 2023, is turning pro after finishing his college career with Michigan State. If Stramel and Hunter Haight, who debuted with the Wild last season, don't make the team out of training camp, they will be call-up options.

X-FACTOR

Based on the impact Hughes had in his first abbreviated season with the Wild, the difference he can make from start to finish could be the boost the team needs to compete with Colorado and Dallas for first place in the division and overcome them in the playoffs.

THE BRASS

John Hynes returns for his fourth year behind the bench, while Bill Guerin enters his eighth season as the GM and president of hockey ops. Guerin won his first Jim Gregory GM of the Year Award and was also the architect of the United States' men's Olympic team.

DEPTH CHART | 2026-27

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Kirill Kaprizov	1. Joel Eriksson Ek	1. Matt Boldy
2. Blake Coleman	2. Ryan Hartman	2. Bobby Brink
3. Yakov Trenin	3. Danila Yurov	3. Maxim Shabanov
4. Nick Foligno	4. Michael McCarron	4. Marcus Foligno
5. Justin Kirkland	5. Nico Sturm	5. Hunter Haight

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Quinn Hughes	6. Zach Bogosian	1. Jesper Wallstedt
2. Brock Faber	7. Daemon Hunt	2. Filip Gustavsson
3. Jonas Brodin	8. Matt Kiersted	3. Calvin Pickard
4. Jared Spurgeon	9. Carson Lambos	INJURED
5. Olli Maatta	10. Viking Gustafsson Nyberg	INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Mats Zuccarello, RW; Marcus Johansson, LW; Vladimir Tarasenko, RW; Jake Middleton, D; Jeff Petry, D; Robby Fabbri, C; Ben Jones, C

DAN HAMILTON-IMAGN IMAGES

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Charlie Stramel
Pos C **Age** 21
2025-26 Michigan State (Big Ten)
Hobey Baker finalist after career year at Michigan State. Burly power forward is AHL-bound.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

2. Adam Benak
Pos C **Age** 19
2025-26 Brantford (OHL)
Electric-but-undersized pivot excelled in USHL, impressed in OHL and is now off to NCAA.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

3. David Spacek
Pos D **Age** 23
2025-26 Iowa (AHL)
There's not much flash to his game, but he has the fundamentals to be a reliable option.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

4. Adam Andersson
Pos C **Age** 18
2025-26 Leksand Jr. (Swe.)
Leave the offense to others. He's the brand of two-way pivot who helps talented teams win.
Expected NHL Arrival '30-31

5. Kayden Lemire
Pos RW **Age** 18
2025-26 Prince George (WHL)
Route to bigs for sizable winger is through committing to doing the offensive dirty work.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

6. Riley Heidt
Pos C **Age** 21
2025-26 Iowa (AHL)
Showed glimpses of playmaking talent in AHL, but he's still adjusting to rigors of pro game.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

7. Hunter Haight
Pos C **Age** 22
2025-26 Iowa (AHL)
Acquitted himself well in nine-game NHL audition. Path forward might be as PK specialist.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

8. Ryder Ritchie
Pos RW **Age** 20
2025-26 Boston University (HE)
Offense regressed from WHL days, but NCAA competition helping him become complete player.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

9. Theodor Hallquisth
Pos D **Age** 19
2025-26 Troja-Ljungby (Swe.2)
Loan to Swedish second tier meant valuable pro reps. An out-and-out 'D'-first blueliner.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

10. Aron Kiviharju
Pos D **Age** 20
2025-26 HIFK (Liiga)
Competitive fire and leader at every level. He's playing significant Liiga minutes.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

POINTS-O-METER

2026-27 PROJECTIONS

FORWARDS **DEFENSEMEN**

100
97 Kaprizov
87 Boldy
Hughes 83
80
60 60 Eriksson Ek
Faber 47
42 Yurov
40
38 Hartman
37 Coleman
34 Brink
29 Shabanov
Spurgeon 27
Brodin 24
22 McCarron
20 20 M. Foligno
19 Trenin
Maatta 19
15 N. Foligno
14 Sturm
Bogosian 9
Hunt 5
0

SCHEDULE

Thu, Oct 1	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Sat, Oct 3	vs Boston	8:00 PM
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Sat, Dec 19	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 22	vs Los Angeles	8:00 PM
Sat, Dec 26	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 28	vs Vegas	2:00 PM
Fri, Jan 1	@ Pittsburgh	6:00 PM
Sat, Jan 2	vs St. Louis	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 5	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Thu, Jan 7	@ Vegas	9:30 PM
Sat, Jan 9	vs Nashville	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 14	vs Florida	9:00 PM
Sat, Jan 16	@ St. Louis	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 17	@ Detroit	5:00 PM
Tue, Jan 19	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 21	vs Detroit	9:00 PM
Sat, Jan 23	vs NY Rangers	8:00 PM
Mon, Jan 25	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Tue, Jan 26	vs Vancouver	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 28	vs Seattle	9:00 PM
Sat, Jan 30	vs Dallas	9:00 PM
Thu, Feb 11	@ Carolina	7:30 PM
Sat, Feb 13	@ NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Mon, Feb 15	vs Ottawa	7:30 PM
Tue, Feb 16	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Thu, Feb 18	vs Los Angeles	8:00 PM
Sat, Feb 20	@ Chicago	3:00 PM
Tue, Feb 23	vs Pittsburgh	8:00 PM
Sat, Feb 27	@ St. Louis	4:00 PM
Sun, Feb 28	vs New Jersey	3:30 PM
Wed, Mar 3	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Sat, Mar 6	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Sun, Mar 7	vs Washington	8:30 PM
Tue, Mar 9	vs Carolina	8:00 PM
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Wed, Mar 17	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
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Thu, Mar 25	vs Edmonton	9:00 PM
Sat, Mar 27	vs Seattle	4:00 PM
Mon, Mar 29	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
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Fri, Apr 2	vs Dallas	8:00 PM
Sun, Apr 4	vs Colorado	2:00 PM
Tue, Apr 6	vs Chicago	8:00 PM
Thu, Apr 8	@ San Jose	9:30 PM
Sat, Apr 10	@ Colorado	3:00 PM

NICK KING/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

MINNESOTA WILD

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Filip Gustavsson	28	6-2	184	Left	Skelleftea, Swe.	Trade: Ott 7/12/22	Minnesota	50	28-15-6	2.69	.904
Riley Mercer	22	6-1	200	Left	Bay Roberts, Nfld.	Free Agent: signed 4/25/25	Iowa (ECHL)	40	14-21-3	3.22	.892
Calvin Pickard	34	6-1	206	Left	Moncton, N.B.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Edmonton	16	5-6-2	3.68	.871
Filip Ruzicka	18	6-7	230	Left	Trinec, Cze.	137th overall (2026)	Brandon (WHL)	42	26-14-1	3.19	.906
Jesper Wallstedt	23	6-3	214	Left	Vasteras, Swe.	20th overall (2021)	Minnesota	35	18-9-6	2.61	.916
Chase Wutzke	20	6-2	158	Left	Debden, Sask.	142nd overall (2024)	Red Deer/Moose Jaw (WHL)	47	16-24-4	3.33	.904

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Nate Benoit	23	6-0	168	Left	Concord, N.H.	182nd overall (2021)	Long Island (NCAA)	31	4	9	13	29
Zach Bogosian	36	6-3	231	Right	Massena, N.Y.	Trade: TB 11/8/23	Minnesota	41	2	4	6	18
Jonas Brodin	33	6-2	196	Left	Karlstad, Swe.	10th overall (2011)	Minnesota	62	4	14	18	16
Ben Dexheimer	24	5-10	180	Right	Edina, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 4/15/26	Wisconsin (Big Ten)	39	7	21	28	10
Brock Faber	24	6-1	200	Right	Maple Grove, Minn.	Trade: LA 6/29/22	Minnesota	80	15	36	51	39
Viking Gustafsson Nyberg	23	6-6	225	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 4/9/26	Connecticut (HE)	38	0	11	11	26
Theodor Hallquisth	19	6-2	172	Right	Taby, Swe.	52nd overall (2025)	Troja-Ljungby (Swe.2)	30	0	3	3	14
Quinn Hughes	26	5-10	180	Left	Orlando, Fla.	Trade: Van 12/12/25	Vancouver/Minnesota	74	7	69	76	32
Daemon Hunt	24	6-1	201	Left	Brandon, Man.	Waivers: Clb 10/3/25	Minnesota	32	0	6	6	6
Matt Kiersted	28	6-0	182	Left	Elk River, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/25	Iowa (AHL)	49	4	8	12	38
Justin Kipkie	21	6-3	195	Left	North Vancouver, B.C.	141st overall (2025)	Arizona State (NCHC)	35	4	9	13	16
Aron Kiviharju	20	5-9	170	Left	Esbjerg, Den.	122nd overall (2024)	HIFK (Liiga)	48	6	11	17	6
Carson Lambos	23	6-1	197	Left	Winnipeg, Man.	26th overall (2021)	Iowa (AHL)	70	8	11	19	48
Stevie Leskovar	22	6-3	207	Left	Cambridge, Ont.	174th overall (2024)	Iowa/South Carolina (ECHL)	43	4	2	6	90
Olli Maatta	32	6-2	207	Left	Jyvaskyla, Fin.	Trade: Cgy 7/2/26	Utah/Calgary	43	2	13	15	4
Jack Peart	23	5-11	186	Left	Grand Rapids, Minn.	54th overall (2021)	Iowa (AHL)	61	4	11	15	24
Aaron Pionk	23	6-1	170	Left	Hermantown, Minn.	149th overall (2023)	Minnesota-Duluth (NCHC)	40	1	9	10	8
Roman Schmidt	23	6-5	218	Right	Midland, Mich.	Trade: Phi 3/1/26	Syracuse/Lehigh Valley/Iowa (AHL)	48	0	3	3	94
Sebastian Soini	20	6-2	183	Right	Tampere Fin.	140th overall (2024)	Ilves (Liiga)	40	3	4	7	20
David Spacek	23	6-0	174	Right	Columbus, Ohio	153rd overall (2022)	Iowa (AHL)	59	7	29	36	16
Jared Spurgeon	36	5-9	166	Right	Edmonton, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 9/23/10	Minnesota	79	6	16	22	14

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Adam Andersson	18	6-4	205	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	83rd overall (2026)	Leksand Jr. (Swe.)	30	3	14	17	24
Caedan Bankier	23	6-2	192	Left	White Rock, B.C.	86th overall (2021)	Iowa (AHL)	66	10	10	20	18
Adam Benak	19	5-7	164	Left	Znojmo, Cze.	102nd overall (2025)	Brantford (OHL)	48	28	49	77	29
Blake Coleman	34	5-11	199	Left	Plano, Texas	Trade: Cgy 7/2/26	Calgary	69	20	15	35	49
Joel Eriksson Ek	29	6-3	207	Left	Karlstad, Swe.	20th overall (2015)	Minnesota	70	19	32	51	32
Dylan Gambrell	30	6-0	191	Right	Bonney Lake, Wash.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Iowa (AHL)	35	10	26	36	4
Matvey Guskov	25	6-2	182	Left	Nizhnekamsk, Rus.	149th overall (2019)	Sochi (KHL)	50	10	22	32	39
Hunter Haight	22	5-10	173	Right	Strathroy, Ont.	47th overall (2022)	Iowa (AHL)	54	18	14	32	22
Riley Heidt	21	5-10	178	Left	Saskatoon, Sask.	64th overall (2023)	Iowa (AHL)	71	8	17	25	38
Justin Kirkland	30	6-3	183	Left	Winnipeg, Man.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Calgary (AHL)	42	11	11	22	32
Carter Klippenstein	19	6-3	180	Left	Lethbridge, Alta.	123rd overall (2025)	Brandon (WHL)	38	11	17	28	74
Rasmus Kumpulainen	21	6-2	191	Left	Lahti, Fin.	53rd overall (2023)	Iowa (AHL)	48	1	4	5	24
Tyler Pitlick	34	6-2	199	Right	Minneapolis, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Minnesota	32	2	0	2	24
Mason Shaw	27	5-10	184	Left	Lloydminster, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Manitoba (AHL)	71	15	29	44	67
Charlie Stramel	21	6-3	212	Right	St. Paul, Minn.	21st overall (2023)	Michigan State (Big Ten)	37	19	25	44	32
Nico Sturm	31	6-3	209	Left	Augsburg, Ger.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Minnesota	49	5	6	11	16
Yakov Trenin	29	6-2	201	Left	Chelyabinsk, Rus.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Minnesota	82	6	17	23	38

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Matt Boldy	25	6-2	201	Left	Milford, Mass.	12th overall (2019)	Minnesota	76	42	43	85	30
James Clark	22	6-0	179	Left	Edina, Minn.	213th overall (2023)	Minnesota (Big Ten)	36	4	12	16	2
Marcus Foligno	35	6-3	226	Left	Buffalo, N.Y.	Trade: Buf 6/30/17	Minnesota	56	8	5	13	67
Nick Foligno	38	6-0	210	Left	Buffalo, N.Y.	Trade: Chi 3/6/26	Chicago/Minnesota	54	4	11	15	44
Jagger Joshua	27	6-2	201	Left	Dearborn, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Rochester (AHL)	71	8	18	26	101
Kirill Kaprizov	29	5-10	202	Left	Novokuznetsk, Rus.	135th overall (2015)	Minnesota	78	45	44	89	28
Rieger Lorenz	22	6-3	205	Left	Calgary, Alta.	56th overall (2022)	Denver (NCHC)	43	17	18	35	38

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Lirim Amidovski	19	6-1	180	Right	Toronto, Ont.	121st overall (2025)	North Bay (OHL)	65	25	23	48	53
Bobby Brink	25	5-8	169	Right	Minnetonka, Minn.	Trade: Phi 3/6/26	Philadelphia/Minnesota	68	15	15	30	24
Ryan Hartman	32	6-0	197	Right	Hilton Head Island, S.C.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/19	Minnesota	76	23	20	43	48
Kayden Lemire	18	6-4	188	Right	Edmonton, Alta.	112th overall (2026)	Prince George (WHL)	68	9	20	29	62
Michael McCarron	31	6-6	232	Right	Grosse Pointe, Mich.	Trade: Nsh 3/3/26	Nashville/Minnesota	79	8	9	17	93
Ryder Ritchie	20	6-0	175	Right	Calgary, Alta.	45th overall (2024)	Boston University (HE)	36	7	10	17	28
Maxim Shabanov	25	5-8	156	Left	Chelyabinsk, Rus.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/26	NY Islanders	44	5	13	18	2
Danila Yurov	22	6-1	178	Left	Chelyabinsk, Rus.	24th overall (2022)	Minnesota	73	12	15	27	28

MONTREAL CANADIENS

2025-26 NUMBERS

RECORD
48-24-10 (.646)

OVERTIME
10-5

SHOOTOUT
4-5

OVERALL
6th

OFFENSE
3.40 GPG (7th)

DEFENSE
3.06 GAA (16th)

POWER PLAY
23.1% (10th)

PENALTY KILL
78.2% (18th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.69 (15th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.85 (26th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
N. Suzuki (20:49)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
M. Matheson (24:10)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Martin St-Louis

GM
Kent Hughes

CAPTAIN
Nick Suzuki

ARENA
Bell Centre

CAPACITY
21,105

AHL AFFILIATE
Laval Rocket

ECHL AFFILIATE
Trois-Rivieres Lions

DAVID KIROUAC-IMAGN IMAGES

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BY STU COWAN

THE MONTREAL CANADIENS WEREN'T able to make any significant trades or free-agent signings during the off-season, but it wasn't for a lack of trying by GM Kent Hughes. The prices were too high for what they're looking for – a second-line center and/or top-six forward with size and an experienced right-shot defenseman.

Hughes was able to lock up right winger Ivan Demidov to an eight-year, $73.2-million extension ($9.15-million AAV) after the 20-year-old led all NHL rookies with 62 points last season. Hughes also signed goalie Jakub Dobes to a three-year, $16.07-million extension ($5.357-million AAV) after the 25-year-old carried the Canadiens to the Eastern Conference final. Both contracts kick in for 2027-28. Hughes said he will continue trying to strike a deal to improve the roster, but he wouldn't put a timeline on making a move. After 14 seasons in Montreal, Brendan Gallagher won't be back, as the 34-year-old was traded to the Vancouver Canucks for future considerations.

OFFENSE

Last season, captain Nick Suzuki became the first Canadien to hit the 100-point mark since Mats Naslund did so in 1985-86. Cole Caufield became the first Canadien to hit the 50-goal mark since Stephane Richer in 1989-90. Lane Hutson ranked fourth among NHL defensemen in scoring with 78 points, and the Canadiens ranked seventh in the league in goals per game. Juraj Slafkovsky scored

30 goals, and the Canadiens had four players with more than 20 goals and five players with more than 60 points. Oliver Kapanen scored 22 goals to rank third among NHL rookies, one behind Beckett Sennecke and Matthew Schaefer. Offense isn't a problem with this young team.

DEFENSE

Another experienced right-shot defenseman would help, allowing Hutson to play his natural position on the left side more often. If Hughes can't trade for one, David Reinbacher will be given a real shot to make the team. The Canadiens have an enviable top four of Hutson, Noah Dobson, Mike Matheson and Kaiden Guhle. Alexandre Carrier, heading into the last season of his deal, features on the third pair, with Arber Xhekaj and Jayden Struble taking turns filling the sixth blueline spot. The Habs ranked 16th in goals against last season.

GOALTENDING

Dobes was the biggest reason the Canadiens advanced to the Eastern Conference final, posting a 2.66 goals-against average and a .908 save percentage in the playoffs and winning two Game 7s. He is now the team's No. 1 goalie – with Jacob Fowler as the likely backup after Samuel Montembeault had a terrible regular season and was a healthy scratch throughout the playoffs. The team wants Fowler to see action, so if he doesn't get sent to AHL Laval and the team trades Montembeault, expect him to play at least 30 games. The Canadiens won't keep three goalies on the roster.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Led by Suzuki's 43 points on the man advantage, the Canadiens' power play ranked 10th in the NHL last season. Slafkovsky had a team-leading 15 power-play goals, and Caufield had 11. The top unit, which also includes Demidov and Hutson, will only get better with more experience. The penalty kill, which ranked 18th in the NHL, needs improvement. Adding someone to replace Carrier on the first PK unit would help.

INTANGIBLES

This team has become a band of brothers, with players continuing to sign team-friendly contracts to keep the group together. Demidov is now signed through 2034-35; Hutson is under contract through 2033-34; Dobson and Slafkovsky are inked through 2032-33; Caufield, Guhle and Matheson are all signed through 2030-31; and Suzuki is locked up through 2029-30.

The Hockey News CUP ODDS

17/1

ROOKIES

Fowler, who only played 17 games with the Canadiens last season, will push Dobes for a share of the No. 1 job. Reinbacher and Florian Xhekaj are the two other rookies with a good shot at making the team, as the Canadiens need a right-shot defenseman and want to add size and grit up front. The 6-foot-3, 195-pound Xhekaj can provide the latter.

X-FACTOR

While Dobes finished fourth in Calder Trophy voting and was outstanding in the playoffs, he only has 59 regular-season games under his belt. Fowler doesn't have a lot of experience, either. The Canadiens will be relying heavily on their young goalies.

THE BRASS

Hughes, president of hockey operations Jeff Gorton and coach Martin St-Louis work well together and have done an impressive job throughout the rebuilding process. Gorton and Hughes were given five-year extensions in October 2025. St-Louis has one season left on his contract, but an extension should be coming soon.

DEPTH CHART | 2026-27

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Cole Caufield	1. Nick Suzuki	1. Juraj Slafkovsky
2. Alex Newhook	2. Oliver Kapanen	2. Ivan Demidov
3. Alexandre Texier	3. Jake Evans	3. Josh Anderson
4. Zachary Bolduc	4. Phillip Danault	4. Kirby Dach
5. Florian Xhekaj	5. Owen Beck	5. Gleb Pugachyov

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Mike Matheson	6. Arber Xhekaj	1. Jakub Dobes
2. Noah Dobson	7. Jayden Struble	2. Jacob Fowler
3. Lane Hutson	8. David Reinbacher	3. Samuel Montembeault
4. Kaiden Guhle	9. Adam Engstrom	
5. Alexandre Carrier	10. Bryce Pickford	

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Brendan Gallagher, RW; Joe Veleno, C; Patrik Laine, LW; Sammy Blais, LW

DAVID KIROUAC-IMAGN IMAGES

MICHAEL HAGE

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Michael Hage
Pos C **Age** 20
2025-26 Michigan (Big Ten)
WJC scoring leader was outstanding for Michigan. Headed back to NCAA for one more season.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

2. David Reinbacher
Pos D **Age** 21
2025-26 Laval (AHL)
Repeated injuries have stunted growth, but upside is apparent thanks to his high hockey IQ.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

3. Alexander Zharovsky
Pos RW **Age** 19
2025-26 Ufa (KHL)
An all-star and top rookie in the KHL, the slick winger has offensive skill set of a top-six talent.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

4. Jacob Fowler
Pos G **Age** 21
2025-26 Laval (AHL)
Rookie pro saw NHL action and later bumped veteran Samuel Montembeault to third-string duty.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

5. Gleb Pugachyov
Pos RW **Age** 18
2025-26 Niz. Novgorod Jr. (Rus.)
He can chip in goals, but more frequently, he makes his mark by unleashing bone-crunching hits.
Expected NHL Arrival '30-31

6. Owen Beck
Pos C **Age** 22
2025-26 Laval (AHL)
Versatile pivot can play in all situations. He was one of Laval's best playoff performers.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

7. Adam Engstrom
Pos D **Age** 22
2025-26 Laval (AHL)
Smooth-skating blueliner didn't look out of place during stint on NHL back end last season.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

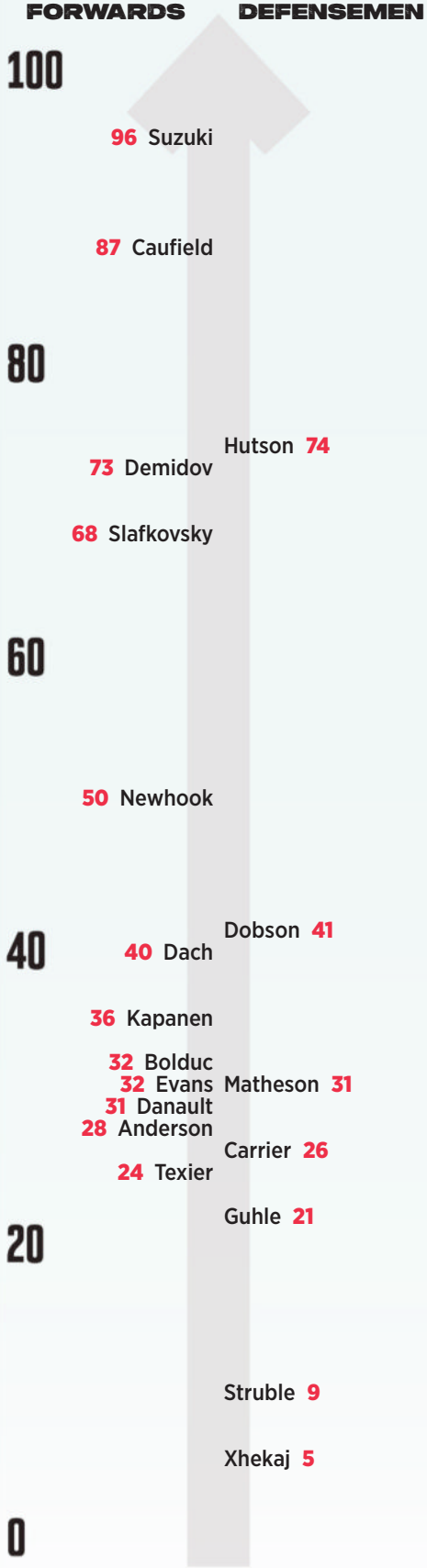
8. Bryce Pickford
Pos D **Age** 20
2025-26 Medicine Hat (WHL)
Top rearguard in the entire CHL last season after breakout 83-point campaign.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

9. Timofei Runtso
Pos D **Age** 19
2025-26 Victoria (WHL)
Rapid rise for Miami commit predicated on his ability to author chance-creating breakouts.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

10. John Mooney
Pos C **Age** 19
2025-26 Minnesota (Big Ten)
Habs not afraid of undersized talent. Diminutive pivot can dish with the best of them.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

POINTS-O-METER

2026-27 PROJECTIONS



SCHEDULE

Tue, Sept 29	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 3	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 6	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 8	vs Nashville	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 10	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 13	vs Buffalo	6:30 PM
Wed, Oct 14	@ Washington	7:30 PM
Sat, Oct 17	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 20	vs San Jose	7:00 PM
Fri, Oct 23	@ Chicago	8:00 PM
Sun, Oct 25	@ Winnipeg*	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 27	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Thu, Oct 29	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Sat, Oct 31	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 3	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 5	vs Utah	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 7	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 10	vs Minnesota	7:00 PM
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Sat, Nov 14	vs Colorado	7:00 PM
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Sat, Jan 16	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 18	@ Buffalo	1:00 PM
Tue, Jan 19	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 21	vs St. Louis	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 23	vs Calgary	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 26	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 28	@ Calgary	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 30	@ Edmonton	7:00 PM
Mon, Feb 1	@ Vancouver	8:30 PM
Wed, Feb 3	@ Seattle	9:40 PM
Sat, Feb 13	vs Washington	1:00 PM
Sun, Feb 14	vs NY Rangers	1:00 PM
Thu, Feb 18	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 20	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Mon, Feb 22	@ Philadelphia	1:00 PM
Wed, Feb 24	@ Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Sat, Feb 27	@ Anaheim	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 1	@ San Jose	10:00 PM
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Sat, Mar 6	vs Vancouver	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 9	@ NY Islanders	7:00 PM
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Sat, Apr 10	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM

*Heritage Classic

RICK OSENTOSKI-IMAGN IMAGES

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

MONTREAL CANADIENS

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Alexis Cournoyer	20	6-3	195	Left	Trois-Rivieres, Que.	145th overall (2025)	Cornell (ECAC)	28	18-10-0	2.05	.915
Emmett Croteau	22	6-3	220	Left	Bonnyville, Alta.	162nd overall (2022)	Dartmouth (ECAC)	24	15-5-4	1.93	.922
Jakub Dobes	25	6-4	215	Left	Ostrava, Cze.	136th overall (2020)	Montreal	43	29-10-4	2.78	.901
Jacob Fowler	21	6-1	223	Left	Melbourne, Fla.	69th overall (2023)	Laval (AHL)	27	19-7-2	2.23	.916
Kaapo Kahkonen	30	6-2	217	Left	Helsinki, Fin.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Laval (AHL)	38	21-9-11	2.73	.895
Quentin Miller	21	6-3	190	Left	Montreal, Que.	128th overall (2023)	Denver (NCHC)	25	12-10-2	2.39	.916
Samuel Montembeault	29	6-3	218	Left	Becancour, Que.	Waivers: Fla 10/2/21	Montreal	25	10-8-4	3.43	.872
Arseni Radkov	19	6-4	194	Left	Mogilev, Blr.	82nd overall (2025)	Blainville-Boisbriand/Saint John (QMJHL)	40	17-14-5	3.45	.889
Mikus Vecvanags	20	6-3	159	Left	Riga, Lat.	134th overall (2024)	Victoria (BCHL)	19	10-6-2	3.31	.905
Yevgeni Volokhin	21	6-0	159	Left	Khanty-Mansiysk, Rus.	144th overall (2023)	Voskresensk (Rus.2)	40	25-10-5	1.51	.948

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Rasmus Bergqvist	21	6-2	181	Left	Skelleftea, Swe.	224th overall (2024)	Skelleftea (SHL)	40	0	4	4	18
Alexandre Carrier	29	5-11	174	Right	Quebec, Que.	Trade: Nsh 12/18/24	Montreal	73	7	15	22	34
Cooper Cleaves	20	6-3	203	Right	New York City, N.Y.	93rd overall (2026)	Dartmouth (ECAC)	30	4	6	10	2
Jean-Samuel Daigneault	18	6-3	194	Left	St-Michel, Que.	221st overall (2026)	Muskegon (USHL)	47	0	5	5	27
Noah Dobson	26	6-4	200	Right	Summerside, P.E.I.	Trade: NYI 6/27/25	Montreal	80	12	35	47	34
Adam Engstrom	22	6-2	193	Left	Jarna, Swe.	92nd overall (2022)	Laval (AHL)	45	10	24	34	18
Kaiden Guhle	24	6-3	202	Left	Edmonton, Alta.	16th overall (2020)	Montreal	39	2	9	11	41
Carlos Handel	19	6-1	172	Right	Erlangen, Ger.	177th overall (2025)	Halifax (QMJHL)	44	3	19	22	30
Lane Hutson	22	5-9	162	Left	Holland, Mich.	62nd overall (2022)	Montreal	82	12	66	78	34
Brayden Klimpke	18	6-0	174	Left	Calgary, Alta.	117th overall (2026)	Saskatoon (WHL)	68	4	42	46	43
Bogdan Konyushkov	23	5-11	176	Right	Penza, Rus.	110th overall (2023)	Nizhny Novgorod (KHL)	67	7	31	38	8
Andrew MacNiel	19	6-2	196	Right	Cobourg, Ont.	189th overall (2025)	Kitchener (OHL)	48	2	5	7	47
Mike Matheson	32	6-2	196	Left	Pointe-Claire, Que	Trade: Pit 7/16/22	Montreal	78	7	30	37	34
Luke Mittelstadt	23	5-11	178	Left	Eden Prairie, Minn.	197th overall (2023)	Minnesota (Big Ten)	36	2	19	21	20
Bryce Pickford	20	6-0	190	Right	Edmonton, Alta.	81st overall (2025)	Medicine Hat (WHL)	55	45	38	83	56
Owen Protz	20	6-1	213	Left	Ottawa, Ont.	102nd overall (2024)	Brantford (OHL)	64	5	18	23	84
David Reinbacher	21	6-3	207	Right	Hohenems, Aut.	5th overall (2023)	Laval (AHL)	57	5	19	24	56
Timofei Runtso	19	6-2	186	Right	Los Angeles, Calif.	57th overall (2026)	Victoria (WHL)	68	11	33	44	28
Ethan Samson	23	6-1	180	Right	Delta, B.C.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Lehigh Valley/Syracuse (AHL)	40	5	13	18	24
Daniil Sobolev	23	6-0	208	Right	St. Petersburg, Rus.	142nd overall (2021)	Spartak Moscow (KHL)	39	1	2	3	20
Jayden Struble	25	6-0	207	Left	Cumberland, R.I.	46th overall (2019)	Montreal	59	2	10	12	58
Maksymilian Szuber	24	6-3	215	Left	Opole, Pol.	Trade: Uth 6/29/26	Tucson (AHL)	65	11	16	27	67
Maxon Vig	20	6-2	212	Left	Bismarck, N.D.	209th overall (2025)	Bemidji State (CCHA)	36	6	1	7	22
Reilly Walsh	27	5-11	192	Right	Framingham, Mass.	Free Agent: signed 7/8/26	Astana (KHL)	68	16	30	46	24
Arber Xhekaj	25	6-4	240	Left	Hamilton, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 10/4/21	Montreal	65	1	3	4	116

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Owen Beck	22	6-0	199	Right	Peterborough, Ont.	33rd overall (2022)	Laval (AHL)	58	13	20	33	28
Zachary Bolduc	23	6-0	187	Left	Trois-Rivieres, Que.	Trade: StL 7/1/25	Montreal	78	12	18	30	28
Lucas Condotta	29	6-1	218	Left	Georgetown, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 3/31/22	Laval (AHL)	70	8	10	18	94
Kirby Dach	25	6-4	221	Right	Fort Saskatchewan, Alta.	Trade: Chi 7/7/22	Montreal	37	8	7	15	31
Phillip Danault	33	6-1	200	Left	Victoriaville, Que.	Trade: LA 12/19/25	Los Angeles/Montreal	75	6	11	17	26
Jared Davidson	24	5-11	183	Left	Edmonton, Alta.	130th overall (2022)	Laval (AHL)	53	16	9	25	59
Filip Eriksson	21	5-11	179	Left	Ljungby, Swe.	165th overall (2023)	Lulea (SHL)	52	15	14	29	6
Jake Evans	30	6-0	190	Right	Toronto, Ont.	207th overall (2014)	Montreal	68	12	12	24	28
Michael Hage	20	6-1	187	Right	Oakville, Ont.	21st overall (2024)	Michigan (Big Ten)	39	13	39	52	14
Oliver Kapanen	23	6-2	194	Right	Timra, Swe.	64th overall (2021)	Montreal	82	22	15	37	22
Aatos Koivu	20	6-1	170	Right	Turku, Fin.	70th overall (2024)	TPS (Liiga)	47	4	5	9	4
Hunter McKown	24	6-1	192	Right	San Jose, Calif.	Trade: Clb 6/25/26	Cleveland (AHL)	63	9	16	25	38
Ben Merrill	20	6-3	190	Right	Hingham, Mass.	166th overall (2024)	Boston University (HE)	33	7	7	14	10
John Mooney	19	5-7	160	Right	Pittsburgh, Pa.	113th overall (2025)	Minnesota (Big Ten)	34	7	23	30	35
Alex Newhook	25	5-11	200	Left	St. John's, Nfld.	Trade: Col 6/27/23	Montreal	42	13	12	25	10
Hayden Paupanekis	19	6-4	196	Right	Winnipeg, Man.	69th overall (2025)	Kelowna (WHL)	57	15	22	37	52
Vinzenz Rohrer	22	5-11	173	Right	Rankweil, Aut.	75th overall (2022)	Zurich (Sui.)	41	4	8	12	20
Logan Sawyer	20	6-1	173	Left	Orangeville, Ont.	78th overall (2024)	Providence (HE)	35	14	14	28	18
Jack Smith	24	6-0	185	Left	St. Cloud, Minn.	102nd overall (2020)	Minnesota State (CCHA)	40	11	11	22	22
Nick Suzuki	27	5-11	207	Right	London, Ont.	Trade: Veg 9/10/18	Montreal	82	29	72	101	28
Alexandre Texier	27	6-1	201	Left	St-Martin-d'Heres, Fra.	Free Agent: signed 11/24/25	St. Louis/Montreal	51	8	13	21	26

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Brett Berard	24	5-9	175	Left	Providence, R.I.	Trade: NYR 6/26/26	Hartford (AHL)	41	6	16	22	53
Sam Harris	22	5-11	180	Left	Carlsbad, Calif.	133rd overall (2023)	Denver (NCHC)	43	15	20	35	47
Juraj Slafkovsky	22	6-3	225	Left	Kosice, Svk.	1st overall (2022)	Montreal	82	30	43	73	52
Parker Trottier	18	6-1	186	Left	Edina, Minn.	189th overall (2026)	USA U18 (NTDP)	61	11	16	27	78
Florian Xhekaj	22	6-3	195	Left	Hamilton, Ont.	101st overall (2023)	Laval (AHL)	64	17	12	29	182

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Josh Anderson	32	6-3	226	Right	Burlington, Ont.	Trade: Clb 10/6/20	Montreal	72	14	9	23	90
Alex Belzile	35	6-0	198	Right	Riviere-du-Loup, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Laval (AHL)	66	29	33	62	76
Cole Caufield	25	5-8	175	Right	Mosinee, Wis.	15th overall (2019)	Montreal	81	51	37	88	14
Tyler Deakos	19	6-1	175	Right	Cochrane, Alta.	224th overall (2026)	Waterloo (USHL)	19	7	10	17	19
Ivan Demidov	20	6-1	192	Left	Sergiyev Posad, Rus.	5th overall (2024)	Montreal	82	19	43	62	34
Alexander Gordin	25	6-1	194	Left	St. Petersburg, Rus.	171st overall (2020)	Gornyak-UGMK (Rus.2)	57	16	17	33	14
Makar Khanin	21	6-0	161	Right	Salavat, Rus.	210th overall (2024)	Dyn. St. Pete./SKA-VMF (Rus. 2)	19	2	5	7	2
Filip Mesar	22	5-10	184	Right	Kezmarok, Svk.	26th overall (2022)	Laval (AHL)	71	9	18	27	26
Sasha Pastujov	23	6-0	190	Left	Bradenton, Fla.	Trade: Ana 7/27/26	San Diego (AHL)	71	21	36	57	26
Samuel Poulin	25	6-2	227	Left	Blainville, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	WBS/Bakersfield (AHL)	71	21	28	49	55
Gleb Pugachyov	18	6-3	198	Left	Almaty, Kaz.	26th overall (2026)	Nizhny Novgorod Jr. (Rus.)	33	10	14	24	36
Wesley Royston	18	6-4	190	Right	Hamilton, Ont.	190th overall (2026)	Erie/Owen Sound (OHL)	59	12	7	19	100
Tyler Thorpe	21	6-5	210	Right	Richmond, B.C.	130th overall (2024)	Laval (AHL)	68	4	12	16	77
Alexander Zharovsky	19	6-1	163	Left	Klin, Rus.	34th overall (2025)	Ufa (KHL)	59	16	26	42	38

NASHVILLE PREDATORS

2025-26 NUMBERS

RECORD
38-34-10 (.524)

OVERTIME
5-8

SHOOTOUT
5-2

OVERALL
23rd

OFFENSE
2.95 GPG (20th)

DEFENSE
3.26 GAA (26th)

POWER PLAY
23.1% (11th)

PENALTY KILL
81.7% (5th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.72 (13th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.74 (22nd)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
R. O'Reilly (20:24)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
R. Josi (24:53)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Andrew Brunette

GM
Chris MacFarland

CAPTAIN
Roman Josi

ARENA
Bridgestone Arena

CAPACITY
17,500

AHL AFFILIATE
Milwaukee Admirals

ECHL AFFILIATE
Atlanta Gladiators

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BY DAVID BOCLAIR

THE NASHVILLE PREDATORS' DECISION to hire Chris MacFarland from Colorado to replace the retiring Barry Trotz as GM kicked off a front-office overhaul unlike any this team has experienced.

MacFarland added Rob Blake (executive VP of hockey operations), Jamie Langenbrunner (special assistant to the GM), Dawson Sprigings (assistant to the GM) and Vukie Mpofu (assistant GM). All are outsiders who bring a fresh set of eyes to a franchise that, more often than not, has promoted from within or brought back people with existing connections. In addition, most of them have won the Stanley Cup as players or as members of a front office.

Few would argue that change was not needed. After all, Nashville has missed the playoffs three times in the past four years and hasn't won a playoff series since 2018.

OFFENSE

Nashville hoped last season would be the start of a transition from aging forwards to a younger group. Instead, the only players with 20 or more goals were 36-year-old Steven Stamkos, 31-year-old Filip Forsberg and 35-year-old Ryan O'Reilly. They were also among the top five on the team in assists and combined for 54.5 percent of the power-play goals. There was some promise among the youngsters, notably 21-year-old Matthew Wood (17 goals) and 24-year-old Luke Evangelista (44 assists). Seven new forwards were added via trade or free agency, including un-

SERGEI BELSKI-IMAGN IMAGES

ROMAN JOSI

DAVID KIROUAC-IMAGN IMAGES

drafted 24-year-old Vitali Pinchuk, who finished third in KHL goal-scoring last season. Two of those additions – Jack Drury and Mavrik Bourque – have already been signed to long-term deals.

DEFENSE

It is still Roman Josi and then the rest. At 36, he is not the Norris threat he once was, and injuries have sidelined him for at least 14 games in three of the past four campaigns. But he remains one of the team's top point producers, and over the past five seasons, he has averaged 1.46 points per 60 minutes. Trotz made a concerted effort to add size to the blueline over the past two summers by inking Brady Skjei (6-foot-3, 210), Nicolas Hague (6-foot-6, 245) and Nick Perbix (6-foot-4, 206). MacFarland said he wants to add more "puck skill and a little more transition," but he was unable to do so in free agency.

GOALTENDING

From 2021 to 2024, Juuse Saros played more games than any other NHL goalie. But with seven years remaining on an eight-year, $61.92-million contract, his goals-against average and save percentage are steadily trending in the wrong directions, and backup Justus Annunen continues to get more playing time. It was particularly notable that as the Predators clung to slim playoff hopes late last season, it was Annunen who started three of four games – and won two – before they were finally eliminated.

SPECIAL TEAMS

One of coach Andrew Brunette's marching orders when he was hired in 2023 was to fix the power play. In that regard, he has been successful. For just the second time, Nashville has scored 50 or more power-play goals in at least three consecutive seasons, and the success rate has climbed in each of those seasons – from 21.6 percent to 21.9 percent to 23.1 percent in 2025-26, all of which are among the top five in franchise history. The penalty-killers chipped in eight shorthanded goals last season, which was as many as the previous two campaigns combined.

INTANGIBLES

MacFarland brought more than just 11 years of experience with him from Colorado. His first two trades were with the Avalanche and netted Drury, Chase Bradley, Ross Colton and prospect Isak Posch. MacFarland's early free-agent additions included center Alexander Kerfoot and defenseman Jack Ahcan, both of whom spent time with Colorado. Without a doubt, the Avalanche are now the Predators' model.

The Hockey News CUP ODDS 60/1

ROOKIES

Tanner Molendyk nearly made the NHL roster as an 18-year-old in 2023. Last season, his first as a pro, he was stuck in the AHL. MacFarland's desire for puck-movers likely means Molendyk will finally get a chance to advance.

X-FACTOR

Nick Saban, one of college football's greatest coaches, became a minority owner in December and was involved in the GM search. "The presence that he has and the way he evaluates things changed the entire interview process for us," said CEO Sean Henry. Saban will advise chairman and owner Bill Haslam on culture and more.

THE BRASS

Brunette enters his fourth season as coach with a history of slow starts. Nashville opened 5-10-0 in 2023-24, 7-16-6 in 2024-25 and 6-12-4 last season, then played better. Trotz was willing to be patient with Brunette. MacFarland is not likely to do the same.

DEPTH CHART | 2026-27

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Filip Forsberg	1. Steven Stamkos	1. Jonathan Marchessault
2. Matthew Wood	2. Ryan O'Reilly	2. Luke Evangelista
3. Ross Colton	3. Jack Drury	3. Adam Edstrom
4. Reid Schaefer	4. Mavrik Bourque	4. Joakim Kemell
5. Alexander Kerfoot	5. Vitali Pinchuk	5. Ozzy Wiesblatt

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Roman Josi	6. Justin Barron	1. Juuse Saros
2. Brady Skjei	7. Ilya Lyubushkin	2. Justus Annunen
3. Nicolas Hague	8. Adam Wilsby	3. Isak Posch
4. Nick Perbix	9. Tanner Molendyk	
5. Ryan Ufko	10. Andrew Gibson	

INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Erik Haula, LW; Fedor Svechkov, C; Tyson Jost, C; Zachary L'Heureux, LW

BRADY MARTIN

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Brady Martin
Pos C **Age** 19
2025-26 Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)
Skilled, speedy pivot stuck out at camp last year. Pencil him onto the NHL roster again.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

2. Wyatt Cullen
Pos LW **Age** 18
2025-26 USA U18 (NTDP)
Clever winger who blends equal parts will and skill. Son of 1,500-game NHLer Matt Cullen.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

3. Egor Surin
Pos C **Age** 20
2025-26 Yaroslavl (KHL)
Rugged forward has learned to stay on right side of line since 108-PIM 2023-24 season.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

4. Tanner Molendyk
Pos D **Age** 21
2025-26 Milwaukee (AHL)
New-school 'D' whose game is built around explosive skating. A one-man breakout at his best.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

5. Cameron Reid
Pos D **Age** 19
2025-26 Kitchener (OHL)
Memorial Cup all-star will take game to NCAA, where focus will be developing own-zone play.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

6. Ryker Lee
Pos RW **Age** 19
2025-26 Michigan State (Big Ten)
Lethal shot and dazzling handles. Skating is work in progress that would elevate his game.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

7. Thomas Bleyl
Pos D **Age** 18
2025-26 Moncton (QMJHL)
Powerful, agile skater who can pick a stretch pass. Broke out in a big way last season.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

8. Joakim Kemell
Pos RW **Age** 22
2025-26 Milwaukee (AHL)
Pure shooter's production has plateaued in AHL as he fights for regular NHL opportunity.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

9. David Edstrom
Pos C **Age** 21
2025-26 Milwaukee (AHL)
No job too big or small for Edstrom, whose all-three-zones commitment is his calling card.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

10. Jack Ivankovic
Pos G **Age** 19
2025-26 Michigan (Big Ten)
No better place for an undersized keeper than Nashville, where Juuse Saros has thrived.
Expected NHL Arrival '30-31

POINTS-O-METER

2026-27 PROJECTIONS

FORWARDS	DEFENSEMEN
100	
80	
77 Forsberg	
62 O'Reilly	
	Josi 61
60	
59 Stamkos	
56 Evangelista	
50 Bourque	
47 Wood	
40	
40 Pinchuk	
40 Marchessault	
	Skjei 32
31 Colton	
29 Drury	
29 Kerfoot	
24 Martin	
20	
18 Kemell	Ufko 19
18 Hoglander	Perbix 18
18 Schaefer	
	Hague 16
	Wilsby 14
12 Edstrom	
	Lyubushkin 10
	Barron 10
0	

SCHEDULE

Thu, Oct 1	vs Minnesota	8:00 PM
Sat, Oct 3	vs Dallas	8:00 PM
Tue, Oct 6	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 8	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 10	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 13	vs Vegas	8:45 PM
Thu, Oct 15	vs San Jose	8:00 PM
Sat, Oct 17	vs St. Louis	8:00 PM
Thu, Oct 22	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 24	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sun, Oct 25	vs Colorado	8:00 PM
Tue, Oct 27	vs NY Islanders	8:00 PM
Thu, Oct 29	vs Washington	8:00 PM
Sat, Oct 31	vs Tampa Bay	2:00 PM
Tue, Nov 3	vs Carolina	8:00 PM
Thu, Nov 5	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Sat, Nov 7	vs St. Louis	1:30 PM
Tue, Nov 10	@ Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Wed, Nov 11	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Fri, Nov 13	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Sun, Nov 15	@ San Jose	9:00 PM
Tue, Nov 17	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Sat, Nov 21	vs Pittsburgh	6:00 PM
Wed, Nov 25	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Fri, Nov 27	vs Utah	1:00 PM
Sat, Nov 28	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Mon, Nov 30	vs Ottawa	1:00 PM
Thu, Dec 3	vs Chicago	8:00 PM
Sat, Dec 5	vs Columbus	2:00 PM
Sun, Dec 6	@ St. Louis	5:00 PM
Tue, Dec 8	@ Calgary	8:00 PM
Thu, Dec 10	@ Vancouver	9:00 PM
Sat, Dec 12	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Tue, Dec 15	vs Seattle	8:00 PM
Fri, Dec 18	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 20	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 22	vs Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Sat, Dec 26	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 28	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 29	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Fri, Jan 1	vs Florida	2:00 PM
Sat, Jan 2	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 5	vs Edmonton	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 7	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 9	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Sun, Jan 10	@ Colorado	8:00 PM
Tue, Jan 12	vs Philadelphia	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 14	vs Montreal	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 16	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 18	@ NY Islanders	3:00 PM
Wed, Jan 20	vs Vancouver	2:00 PM
Thu, Jan 21	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 23	vs Los Angeles	5:00 PM
Tue, Jan 26	vs Vegas	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 28	@ San Jose	10:00 PM
Sat, Jan 30	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sun, Jan 31	@ Utah	8:00 PM
Tue, Feb 2	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Sat, Feb 13	vs Anaheim	1:30 PM
Tue, Feb 16	vs New Jersey	8:00 PM
Thu, Feb 18	vs Toronto	8:00 PM
Sat, Feb 20	@ Columbus	5:00 PM
Sun, Feb 21	@ Washington	6:00 PM
Tue, Feb 23	vs Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Thu, Feb 25	vs Edmonton	8:00 PM
Sat, Feb 27	vs Los Angeles	8:00 PM
Tue, Mar 2	vs Colorado	8:00 PM
Thu, Mar 4	vs Utah	9:30 PM
Sat, Mar 6	vs Minnesota	8:00 PM
Tue, Mar 9	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Thu, Mar 11	@ Edmonton	8:00 PM
Sat, Mar 13	@ Winnipeg	3:30 PM
Mon, Mar 15	@ Calgary	9:30 PM
Wed, Mar 17	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Sat, Mar 20	vs Boston	5:00 PM
Tue, Mar 23	vs NY Rangers	8:00 PM
Fri, Mar 26	@ Chicago	8:00 PM
Sat, Mar 27	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Tue, Mar 30	vs Buffalo	8:00 PM
Thu, Apr 1	vs Chicago	8:00 PM
Sat, Apr 3	vs Calgary	3:30 PM
Tue, Apr 6	vs Seattle	8:00 PM
Thu, Apr 8	@ Chicago	8:00 PM
Sat, Apr 10	vs Dallas	6:00 PM

BOB DAVIES/SOO GREYHOUNDS

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

NASHVILLE PREDATORS

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Justus Annunen	26	6-4	210	Left	Kempele, Fin.	Trade: Col 11/30/24	Nashville	28	10-12-2	2.68	.907
Dmitri Borichev	18	6-2	194	Left	Vologda, Rus.	70th overall (2026)	Loko-76 Yaroslavl Jr. (Rus.)	24	12-8-3	2.25	.929
Jack Ivankovic	19	5-11	178	Left	Mississauga, Ont.	58th overall (2025)	Michigan (Big Ten)	35	25-8-1	2.15	.921
Jakub Milota	20	6-1	178	Left	Ostrava, Cze.	99th overall (2024)	Blainville-Boisbriand (QMJHL)	3	2-0-0	0.45	.986
Matt Murray	28	6-1	196	Left	St. Albert, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Milwaukee (AHL)	47	22-22-2	2.83	.904
Isak Posch	24	6-3	209	Left	Umea, Swe.	Trade: Col 6/16/26	Colorado (AHL)	28	15-8-7	2.78	.891
Juuse Saros	31	5-11	180	Left	Forssa, Fin.	99th overall (2013)	Nashville	59	28-22-8	3.16	.894

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Jack Ahcan	29	5-8	180	Left	Savage, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Colorado (AHL)	61	11	39	50	48
Justin Barron	24	6-2	198	Right	Halifax, N.S.	Trade: Mtl 12/18/24	Nashville	52	0	9	9	17
Thomas Bleyl	18	6-0	165	Right	Schenectady, N.Y.	31st overall (2026)	Moncton (QMJHL)	63	13	68	81	33
Benjamin Cossette Ayotte	18	6-1	185	Right	Trois-Rivieres, Que.	179th overall (2026)	Val-d'Or (QMJHL)	62	4	34	38	34
Jakub Floris	18	6-3	194	Right	Bratislava, Svk.	106th overall (2026)	Lukko Jr. (Fin.)	38	10	8	18	10
Andrew Gibson	21	6-3	207	Right	Windsor, Ont.	Trade: Det 6/25/24	Milwaukee (AHL)	71	2	11	13	80
Viggo Gustafsson	20	6-3	195	Left	Tingsryd, Swe.	77th overall (2024)	AIK (Swe.2)	40	0	8	8	28
Nicolas Hague	27	6-6	245	Left	Kitchener, Ont.	Trade: Veg 6/30/25	Nashville	62	3	12	15	47
Alex Huang	19	6-0	170	Right	Montreal, Que.	122nd overall (2025)	Chicoutimi (QMJHL)	62	11	59	70	14
Roman Josi	36	6-1	201	Left	Bern, Sui.	38th overall (2008)	Nashville	68	13	42	55	30
Ilya Lyubushkin	32	6-2	200	Right	Moscow, Rus.	Trade: Dal 7/1/26	Dallas	53	1	8	9	40
Tanner Molendyk	21	6-0	190	Left	McBride, B.C.	24th overall (2023)	Milwaukee (AHL)	60	4	19	23	14
Daniel Nieminen	20	6-0	187	Left	Lahti, Fin.	163rd overall (2025)	Pelicans (Liiga)	47	5	12	17	22
Nick Perbix	28	6-4	206	Right	Elk River, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Nashville	79	3	10	13	20
Cameron Reid	19	6-0	193	Left	St. Thomas, Ont.	21st overall (2025)	Kitchener (OHL)	57	15	41	56	29
Jacob Rombach	19	6-6	196	Left	Blaine, Minn.	35th overall (2025)	Minnesota (Big Ten)	36	1	3	4	12
Hunter Skinner	25	6-3	205	Right	Wyandotte, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Springfield (AHL)	60	7	12	19	61
Brady Skjei	32	6-3	210	Left	Lakeville, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Nashville	82	3	23	26	40
Ryan Ufko	23	6-0	174	Right	Smithtown, N.Y.	115th overall (2021)	Milwaukee (AHL)	52	11	33	44	20
Adam Wilsby	26	6-1	188	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	101st overall (2020)	Nashville	58	1	15	16	29

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Mavrik Bourque	24	5-11	181	Right	Plessisville, Que.	Trade: Dal 7/1/26	Dallas	82	20	21	41	22
Ross Colton	30	6-0	194	Left	Robbinsville, N.J.	Trade: Col 6/16/26	Colorado	73	9	15	24	13
Jack Drury	26	5-11	186	Left	New York, N.Y.	Trade: Col 6/24/26	Colorado	82	10	17	27	31
David Edstrom	21	6-3	185	Left	Gothenburg, Swe.	Trade: SJ 8/23/24	Milwaukee (AHL)	53	8	14	22	28
Adam Ingram	22	6-3	160	Left	Winnipeg, Man.	82nd overall (2022)	St. Cloud State (NCHC)	25	3	10	13	10
Alexander Kerfoot	32	5-11	185	Left	Vancouver, B.C.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Utah	34	7	6	13	23
Jake Lucchini	31	6-0	180	Left	Trail, B.C.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Milwaukee (AHL)	63	17	33	50	23
Brady Martin	19	6-0	178	Right	Kitchener, Ont.	5th overall (2025)	Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)	24	8	16	24	37
Sutter Muzzatti	23	6-8	226	Left	Okemos, Mich.	143rd overall (2023)	Notre Dame (Big Ten)	37	13	19	32	42
Felix Nilsson	21	6-2	191	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	43rd overall (2023)	Rogle (SHL)	52	14	26	40	14
Ryan O'Reilly	35	6-1	207	Left	Clinton, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Nashville	81	25	49	74	22
Erik Pahlsson	22	6-1	179	Left	Landskrona, Swe.	213th overall (2024)	Minnesota (Big Ten)	32	5	9	14	4
Vitali Pinchuk	24	6-3	203	Left	Zhlobin, Blr.	Free Agent: signed 4/27/26	Minsk (KHL)	65	31	35	66	18
Charlie Puglisi	18	6-0	162	Right	Albany, N.Y.	202nd overall (2026)	Winchendon School (USHS)	35	26	50	76	-
Steven Stamkos	36	6-1	193	Right	Markham, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Nashville	82	42	24	66	58
Teddy Stiga	20	5-10	177	Left	Boston, Mass.	55th overall (2024)	Boston College (HE)	31	6	15	21	29
Ben Strinden	24	6-2	208	Right	Fargo, N.D.	210th overall (2022)	North Dakota (NCHC)	38	15	20	35	8
Egor Surin	20	6-2	197	Left	Voronezh, Rus.	22nd overall (2024)	Yaroslavl (KHL)	57	15	22	37	43
Ozzy Wiesblatt	24	5-10	183	Right	Calgary, Alta.	Trade: SJ 6/23/24	Nashville	40	1	4	5	38
Joey Willis	21	6-0	179	Left	Elmhurst, Ill.	111th overall (2023)	Milwaukee (AHL)	56	8	14	22	18

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Chase Bradley	24	5-11	180	Left	St. Louis, Mo.	Trade: Col 6/24/26	Colorado (AHL)	42	9	3	12	46
Wyatt Cullen	18	6-1	184	Left	Moorhead, Minn.	10th overall (2026)	USA U18 (NTDP)	40	16	29	45	43
Filip Forsberg	32	6-1	205	Right	Ostervala, Swe.	Trade: Wsh 4/3/13	Nashville	82	40	35	75	34
Justin Graf	19	6-1	174	Left	Boston, Mass.	118th overall (2026)	Cedar Rapids (USHL)	52	23	32	55	12
Philip Hemmyr	19	6-1	170	Left	Umea, Swe.	138th overall (2026)	Bjorkloven (Swe.2)	36	6	6	12	8
Nils Hoglander	25	5-9	185	Left	Bocktrask, Swe.	Trade: Van 6/29/26	Vancouver	38	2	3	5	8
Kalan Lind	21	6-1	165	Left	Swift Current, Sask.	46th overall (2023)	Atlanta (ECHL)	34	5	11	16	34
Viktor Norringer	20	6-3	197	Right	Lerkil, Swe.	127th overall (2024)	Muskegon (USHL)	48	24	25	49	28
Reid Schaefer	23	6-5	226	Left	Edmonton, Alta.	Trade: Edm 2/28/23	Nashville	47	6	2	8	17

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Adam Edstrom	25	6-7	241	Left	Karlstad, Swe.	Trade: NYR 6/27/26	NY Rangers	35	3	2	5	2
Luke Evangelista	24	6-0	183	Right	Toronto, Ont.	42nd overall (2020)	Nashville	81	12	44	56	28
Aiden Fink	21	5-11	165	Right	Calgary, Alta.	218th overall (2023)	Penn State (Big Ten)	30	10	28	38	20
Hiroki Gojsic	20	6-3	207	Right	Langley, B.C.	94th overall (2024)	Kelowna (WHL)	55	19	22	41	26
Joakim Kemell	22	5-11	182	Right	Jyvaskyla, Fin.	17th overall (2022)	Milwaukee (AHL)	48	10	19	29	56
Ryker Lee	19	6-0	170	Right	Chicago, Ill.	26th overall (2025)	Michigan State (Big Ten)	35	15	15	30	26
Jonathan Marchessault	35	5-9	185	Right	Cap-Rouge, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Nashville	62	12	19	31	30
Miguel Marques	20	5-11	184	Right	Prince George, B.C.	87th overall (2024)	Maine (HE)	33	10	13	23	18
Cole O'Hara	24	6-0	187	Right	Richmond Hill, Ont.	114th overall (2022)	Milwaukee (AHL)	67	19	25	44	12
Austin Roest	22	5-10	181	Right	Coldstream, B.C.	175th overall (2023)	Milwaukee (AHL)	41	1	6	7	22
Matthew Wood	21	6-5	205	Right	Nanaimo, B.C.	15th overall (2023)	Nashville	71	17	13	30	14

NEW JERSEY DEVILS

2025-26 NUMBERS

RECORD
42-37-3 (.530)

OVERTIME
9-2

SHOOTOUT
4-1

OVERALL
21st

OFFENSE
2.76 GPG (27th)

DEFENSE
3.09 GAA (18th)

POWER PLAY
22.0% (13th)

PENALTY KILL
79.3% (17th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.65 (19th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.66 (15th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
J. Hughes (21:19)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
L. Hughes (23:01)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Sheldon Keefe

GM
Sunny Mehta

CAPTAIN
Nico Hischier

ARENA
Prudential Center

CAPACITY
16,535

AHL AFFILIATE
Utica Comets

ECHL AFFILIATE
Adirondack Thunder

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BY KRISTY FLANNERY

IT'S A NEW ERA of New Jersey Devils hockey. After the organization parted ways with GM Tom Fitzgerald in April, Sunny Mehta was brought in to lead the franchise into its next chapter. The former Florida Panthers assistant GM wasted little time implementing changes, reshaping both the front office and coaching staff after New Jersey missed the playoffs and finished seventh in the Metropolitan Division last season.

The Devils moved on from Jacob Markstrom, Simon Nemec, Paul Cotter and Evgenii Dadonov while placing an increased emphasis on strengthening AHL Utica with multiple additions. Mehta also ensured two foundational players remain in New Jersey for years to come, signing captain Nico Hischier to a five-year, $58.5-million contract and Arseny Gritsyuk to a three-year, $9.75-million deal.

OFFENSE

Despite Jack Hughes producing 77 points in 61 games and Cody Glass setting a new career-high with 19 goals, the Devils struggled to generate offense last season. In his first year with New Jersey, Connor Brown eclipsed the 40-point mark, while Gritsyuk recorded 31 points during his rookie year. However, the production was still not enough, prompting Mehta to make three notable additions to the forward group: Anthony Mantha, Evan Rodrigues and Jesper Boqvist. New Jersey enters the season with an abundance of forwards capable of moving up and down the lineup, giving coach Sheldon Keefe added flex-

SERGEI BELSKI-IMAGN IMAGES

DAVID KIROUAC-IMAGN IMAGES

ibility. And Mehta's objective is clear: continue adding quality players. On July 1, he submitted an offer sheet to Utah Mammoth center Barrett Hayton. Although Utah matched the offer, the move showed Mehta's willingness to improve his roster.

DEFENSE

Mehta's first trade as GM sent Nemec and Maxim Tsyplakov to Calgary in exchange for conditional first-round picks in 2027 and 2028, a 2026 second-round selection and prospect Etienne Morin. In doing so, the Devils committed to a blueline anchored by Dougie Hamilton, Luke Hughes, Brett Pesce, Brenden Dillon, Jonas Siegenthaler and Johnathan Kovacevic. The team continued to bolster its defensive depth by acquiring Declan Chisholm and signing Vladislav Kolyachonok. The Devils also have youngsters pushing for opportunities, including Seamus Casey and Ethan Edwards. The biggest wild card is 2024 10th overall pick Anton Silayev. Training camp will provide the team with its first look at how quickly the 20-year-old's game will translate from the KHL.

GOALTENDING

Mehta cleared a path for Nico Daws to compete for a full-time role by trading Markstrom to the Florida Panthers in June. After spending five seasons in the AHL, Daws was often viewed as the Devils' third goaltender. For the first time since turning pro, however, he enters training camp with an opportunity to begin the season as part of New Jersey's tandem with Jake Allen. As a safeguard, the Devils signed David Rittich.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Devils saw their power play slip from third place in 2024-25 to 13th last season. Jack Hughes' injuries played a significant role, as his absences left a void on the team's top unit. With assistant Jeremy Colliton departing, a new voice will take over the power play. Ted Donato and AJ MacLean were added to the coaching staff in July. Brad Shaw will remain in charge of the penalty kill, which ranked 17th last season. Similar to the PP, New Jersey's PK was impacted by injuries. Pesce missed 45 games, and Kovacevic did not make his season debut until mid-January, limiting the Devils' ability to establish consistency.

The Hockey News CUP ODDS

35/1

INTANGIBLES

The dressing room was surrounded by distractions and outside noise last season, but Mehta believes there is a strong foundation, and the addition of Rodrigues should only strengthen that environment. Rodrigues brings a winning pedigree that can help the Devils continue developing a winning culture.

ROOKIES

Like most who arrive from the KHL, there will be an adjustment period for Silayev, and the organization won't truly know what it has until he begins playing on this side of the Atlantic. The expectation is that he will spend time in the AHL.

X-FACTOR

Thanks to his exceptional skills and speed, Jack Hughes is a game-changer and one of the league's top players when healthy. Due to injuries, though, the 25-year-old has only played one full year. A healthy Hughes would be more impactful than any signing.

THE BRASS

Keefe returns for his third season, but his staff will look different. Colliton and Sergei Brylin both departed, and goaltending coach Dave Rogalski was fired, leaving Shaw as the only returning assistant. Keefe filled out his staff by adding Donato and MacLean on top of Dan Stewart as a goalie coach.

DEPTH CHART | 2026-27

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Timo Meier	1. Nico Hischier	1. Dawson Mercer
2. Jesper Bratt	2. Jack Hughes	2. Connor Brown
3. Arseny Gritsyuk	3. Cody Glass	3. Anthony Mantha
4. Jesper Boqvist	4. Nick Bjugstad	4. Evan Rodrigues
5. Riley Tufte	5. Amadeus Lombardi	5. Stefan Noesen

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Luke Hughes	6. Johnathan Kovacevic	1. Jake Allen
2. Brett Pesce	7. Declan Chisholm	2. Nico Daws
3. Jonas Siegenthaler	8. Seamus Casey	3. David Rittich
4. Dougie Hamilton	9. Anton Silayev	
5. Brenden Dillon	10. Topias Vilen	

■ INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Jacob Markstrom, G; Simon Nemec, D; Paul Cotter, LW; Evgenii Dadonov, LW; Maxim Tsyplakov, RW; Colton White, D; Dennis Cholowski, D; Brian Halonen, LW

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Anton Silayev
Pos D **Age** 20
2025-26 Nizhny Novgorod (KHL)
A rearguard his size – 6-foot-7 – shouldn't move as well as he does. Purely a shutdown defenseman.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

2. Alexander Command
Pos C **Age** 18
2025-26 Orebro Jr. (Swe.)
He's unlikely to dazzle, but he has no glaring weakness in his game. Responsible and reliable.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

3. Mikhail Yegorov
Pos G **Age** 20
2025-26 Boston University (HE)
Nose-diving sophomore numbers, but growing pains are far from abnormal for young keepers.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

4. Lenni Hameenaho
Pos RW **Age** 21
2025-26 Utica (AHL)
Got accustomed to AHL before jumping to NHL. He takes care of the puck and his positioning.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

5. Seamus Casey
Pos D **Age** 22
2025-26 Utica (AHL)
His attacking prowess has never been questioned. Ironing out own-zone play is the key now.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

6. Matias Vanhanen
Pos LW **Age** 19
2025-26 Everett (WHL)
Deft playmaker led WHL rookies with 66 assists last season after making jump from Finland.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

7. Conrad Fondrk
Pos C **Age** 19
2025-26 Boston University (HE)
Smart pivot doesn't force plays that aren't there. Instead, he plays with poise and patience.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

8. Nikita Shcherbakov
Pos D **Age** 18
2025-26 Neftekamsk (Rus.2)
Slight but skillful, he moves and distributes well. Length will help him ward off attackers.
Expected NHL Arrival '30-31

9. Matyas Melovsky
Pos C **Age** 22
2025-26 Utica (AHL)
Slotted into middle of AHL lineup last season and earned spot on Czech World Championship squad.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

10. Etienne Morin
Pos D **Age** 21
2025-26 Calgary (AHL)
Slick-skating puck-mover came over in Nemec trade. Learning finer points of the defensive game.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

POINTS-O-METER

2026-27 PROJECTIONS

FORWARDS	DEFENSEMEN
100 J. Hughes	
83 Bratt	
80	
68 Hischier	
60	
53 Meier	
	L. Hughes 44
43 Mercer	
42 Gritsyuk	
	Hamilton 41
40	
34 Rodrigues	
33 Brown	
27 Glass	
23 Hameenaho	
20 Noesen	
19 Boqvist	
	Dillon 18
	Kovacevic 16
15 Bjugstad	Pesce 14
	Chisholm 14
	Siegenthaler 12
	Silayev 7
0	

SCHEDULE

Thu, Oct 1	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 3	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Tue, Oct 6	vs Utah	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 10	vs Vancouver	3:30 PM
Mon, Oct 12	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 13	@ Detroit	6:00 PM
Thu, Oct 15	vs NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 17	@ Washington	1:00 PM
Tue, Oct 20	vs Colorado	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 22	vs Anaheim	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 24	vs Los Angeles	3:30 PM
Tue, Oct 27	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Wed, Oct 28	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Fri, Oct 30	@ Vegas	6:00 PM
Tue, Nov 3	vs Edmonton	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 5	vs St. Louis	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 7	@ NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Sun, Nov 8	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 10	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Thu, Nov 12	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 14	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 18	vs Montreal	7:30 PM
Sat, Nov 21	@ St. Louis	7:00 PM
Mon, Nov 23	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 25	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 27	vs Calgary	1:00 PM
Sat, Nov 28	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 1	vs San Jose	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 3	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 5	@ Pittsburgh	3:00 PM
Mon, Dec 7	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Wed, Dec 9	vs Detroit	7:30 PM
Sat, Dec 12	@ Boston	1:00 PM
Tue, Dec 15	vs NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 17	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 19	vs Boston	12:00 PM
Sun, Dec 20	vs Nashville	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 22	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 26	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 27	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 29	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Fri, Jan 1	@ Anaheim	4:00 PM
Sat, Jan 2	@ Los Angeles	9:00 PM
Mon, Jan 4	@ San Jose	10:00 PM
Thu, Jan 7	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 9	vs Chicago	12:00 PM
Tue, Jan 12	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Wed, Jan 13	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 16	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 19	vs Dallas	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 21	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 23	@ Philadelphia	7:30 PM
Sun, Jan 24	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 26	vs Seattle	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 28	@ Edmonton	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 30	@ Calgary	3:30 PM
Sun, Jan 31	@ Seattle	4:00 PM
Wed, Feb 3	@ Vancouver	9:00 PM
Sat, Feb 13	@ Philadelphia	7:30 PM
Tue, Feb 16	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Thu, Feb 18	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 20	vs Buffalo	3:00 PM
Sun, Feb 21	@ Chicago	3:30 PM
Tue, Feb 23	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Fri, Feb 26	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sun, Feb 28	@ Minnesota	3:30 PM
Tue, Mar 2	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 4	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Fri, Mar 5	vs Vegas	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 9	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 11	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 13	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 18	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 20	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 23	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 25	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 27	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 29	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Wed, Mar 31	vs Minnesota	7:30 PM
Sat, Apr 3	@ Carolina	5:00 PM
Sun, Apr 4	vs Florida	4:30 PM
Tue, Apr 6	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 8	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 10	vs Pittsburgh	6:00 PM

YURY KUZMIN/KHL PHOTO

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

NEW JERSEY DEVILS

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Jake Allen	36	6-2	197	Left	Fredericton, N.B.	Trade: Mtl 3/8/24	New Jersey	37	17-17-2	2.74	.904
Trenten Bennett	20	6-8	205	Left	Kitchener, Ont.	99th overall (2025)	Owen Sound (OHL)	27	9-10-2	3.93	.896
Nico Daws	25	6-4	205	Left	Munich, Ger.	84th overall (2020)	Utica (AHL)	44	17-16-11	2.78	.892
Veeti Louhivaara	20	6-3	207	Left	Jyvaskyla, Fin.	146th overall (2024)	Chicago (USHL)	22	12-6-4	2.86	.905
Jakub Malek	24	6-4	170	Left	Kromeriz, Cze.	100th overall (2021)	Utica (AHL)	31	13-14-5	2.75	.895
David Rittich	34	6-4	205	Left	Jihlava, Cze.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/26	NY Islanders	30	14-10-3	2.76	.894
Daniil Rusakovich	18	6-4	188	Left	Minsk, Blr.	149th overall (2026)	Bobruysk Jr. (Rus.)	20	10-7-2	1.94	.913
Mikhail Yegorov	20	6-5	179	Left	St. Petersburg, Rus.	49th overall (2024)	Boston University (HE)	35	16-15-2	2.73	.904

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Artem Barabosha	22	6-3	189	Right	Omsk, Rus.	198th overall (2022)	Zvezda Moscow (Rus.2)	52	2	2	4	40
Seamus Casey	22	5-10	162	Right	Miami, Fla.	46th overall (2022)	Utica (AHL)	29	1	18	19	13
Chase Cheslock	21	6-3	208	Right	Rogers, Minn.	154th overall (2023)	St. Thomas (NCHC)	38	1	23	24	22
Declan Chisholm	26	6-1	190	Left	Bowmanville, Ont.	Trade: Wsh 6/25/26	Washington	26	1	6	7	4
Brenden Dillon	35	6-4	225	Left	New Westminster, B.C.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	New Jersey	82	3	12	15	89
Mikael Diotte	23	6-3	205	Right	Ste-Julie, Que.	Free Agent: signed 3/2/24	Utica (AHL)	53	1	7	8	44
Ethan Edwards	24	5-10	176	Left	Grande Prairie, Alta.	120th overall (2020)	Utica (AHL)	69	10	13	23	69
Dougie Hamilton	33	6-6	230	Right	Toronto, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/28/21	New Jersey	77	12	27	39	50
Jeremy Hanzel	23	6-1	205	Left	Burnaby, B.C.	Trade: Nsh 6/18/25	Adirondack (ECHL)	72	8	41	49	10
Sigge Holmgren	19	6-1	186	Right	Hedesunda, Swe.	178th overall (2025)	Brynas Jr. (Swe.)	34	0	7	7	16
Luke Hughes	23	6-2	198	Left	Manchester, N.H.	4th overall (2021)	New Jersey	68	6	29	35	32
Daniil Karpovich	21	6-3	209	Left	Minsk, Blr.	186th overall (2023)	Gornyak-UGMK (Rus.2)	33	0	0	0	10
Vladislav Kolyachonok	25	6-2	195	Left	Minsk, Blr.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Texas (AHL)	34	1	8	9	14
Johnathan Kovacevic	29	6-5	223	Right	Hamilton, Ont.	Trade: Mtl 6/30/24	New Jersey	34	0	8	8	38
Charles Leddy	22	6-1	184	Right	Fairfield, Conn.	126th overall (2022)	Quinnipiac (ECAC)	29	1	6	7	12
Etienne Morin	21	6-0	180	Left	Salaberry-de-Valleyfield, Que.	Trade: Cgy 6/23/26	Calgary (AHL)	42	1	6	7	10
Daniil Orlov	22	6-2	180	Left	Elektrostal, Rus.	110th overall (2022)	Spartak Moscow (KHL)	66	10	18	28	27
Brett Pesce	31	6-3	206	Right	Tarrytown, N.Y.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	New Jersey	37	1	6	7	6
Nikita Shcherbakov	18	6-3	187	Left	Chelyabinsk, Rus.	44th overall (2026)	Neftekamsk (Rus.2)	35	4	6	10	24
Jonas Siegenthaler	29	6-2	218	Left	Zurich, Sui.	Trade: Wsh 4/11/21	New Jersey	82	0	16	16	48
Anton Silayev	20	6-7	211	Left	Sarov, Rus.	10th overall (2024)	Nizhny Novgorod (KHL)	61	1	2	3	10
Topias Vilen	23	6-1	194	Left	Lahti, Fin.	129th overall (2021)	Utica (AHL)	61	4	23	27	24

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Nick Bjugstad	34	6-5	205	Right	Minneapolis, Minn.	Trade: StL 2/4/26	St. Louis/New Jersey	61	6	3	9	33
Jesper Boqvist	27	6-1	190	Left	Falun, Swe.	Trade: Fla 6/30/26	Florida	73	4	9	13	16
Alexander Command	18	6-1	183	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	12th overall (2026)	Orebro Jr. (Swe.)	30	17	27	44	61
Conrad Fondrk	19	6-0	193	Left	St. Paul, Minn.	50th overall (2025)	Boston University (HE)	25	3	5	8	0
Lavr Gashilov	19	5-11	186	Left	Perm, Rus.	119th overall (2026)	Yekaterinburg Jr. (Rus.)	51	16	53	69	20
Cody Glass	27	6-3	201	Right	Winnipeg, Man.	Trade: Pit 3/7/25	New Jersey	70	19	7	26	39
Gustav Hillstrom	19	6-2	174	Right	Gavle, Swe.	114th overall (2025)	Brynas (SHL)	27	0	1	1	0
Nico Hischier	27	6-1	200	Left	Brig, Sui.	1st overall (2017)	New Jersey	82	28	38	66	29
Jack Hughes	25	5-11	175	Left	Orlando, Fla.	1st overall (2019)	New Jersey	61	27	50	77	10
Amadeus Lombardi	23	5-10	165	Left	Newmarket, Ont.	Trade: Det 6/25/26	Grand Rapids (AHL)	47	16	26	42	22
Quinn McKenzie	18	5-8	178	Right	North Potomac, Md.	222nd overall (2026)	Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)	65	21	30	51	12
Marc McLaughlin	27	6-0	202	Right	North Billerica, Mass.	Trade: Bos 3/7/25	Utica (AHL)	23	6	8	14	6
Matyas Melovsky	22	6-1	190	Right	Zlin, Cze.	171st overall (2024)	Utica (AHL)	55	10	16	26	31
Dawson Mercer	24	6-0	180	Right	Carbonear, Nfld.	18th overall (2020)	New Jersey	82	20	22	42	33
Mason Moe	19	6-2	187	Left	Edina, Minn.	90th overall (2025)	Minnesota (Big Ten)	33	6	6	12	4
Xavier Parent	25	5-8	170	Left	Laval, Que.	Free Agent: signed 3/14/25	Utica (AHL)	63	20	19	39	80
Samu Salminen	23	6-2	186	Left	Helsinki, Fin.	68th overall (2021)	Denver (NCHC)	43	11	18	29	21
Colin White	29	6-1	195	Right	Boston, Mass.	Free Agent: signed 7/30/26	San Jose (AHL)	46	21	27	48	28
Luke Wilfley	18	6-1	182	Right	Englewood, Colo.	172nd overall (2026)	Portland (WHL)	66	9	6	15	64

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Jesper Bratt	28	5-10	175	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	162nd overall (2016)	New Jersey	82	22	49	71	12
Cole Brown	21	6-2	178	Left	Toronto, Ont.	164th overall (2023)	Notre Dame (Big Ten)	35	6	15	21	94
Josh Filmon	22	6-1	158	Left	Winnipeg, Man.	166th overall (2022)	Utica (AHL)	31	4	2	6	14
Shane Lachance	23	6-4	195	Left	Andover, Mass.	Trade: Edm 3/4/25	Utica (AHL)	62	10	15	25	18
Ben Steeves	24	5-8	165	Left	Bedford, N.H.	Trade: Fla 6/30/26	Charlotte (AHL)	72	23	22	45	100
Riley Tufte	28	6-6	230	Left	Coon Rapids, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Providence (AHL)	64	32	24	56	71
Matias Vanhanen	19	5-11	176	Left	Nokia, Fin.	37th overall (2026)	Everett (WHL)	62	21	66	87	6

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Connor Brown	32	6-0	184	Right	Toronto, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	New Jersey	75	18	25	43	22
Arseny Gritsyuk	25	6-0	195	Left	Krasnoyarsk, Rus.	129th overall (2019)	New Jersey	66	13	18	31	26
Lenni Hameenaho	21	6-0	173	Right	Kajaani, Fin.	58th overall (2023)	Utica (AHL)	37	10	16	26	12
Ben Kevan	19	6-1	173	Right	Fairfield, Calif.	63rd overall (2025)	Arizona State (NCHC)	34	4	6	10	4
Anthony Mantha	32	6-5	240	Left	Longueuil, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/15/26	Pittsburgh	81	33	31	64	43
Timo Meier	29	6-1	220	Left	Herisau, Sui.	Trade: SJ 2/26/23	New Jersey	77	24	20	44	22
Stefan Noesen	33	6-1	205	Right	Plano, Texas	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	New Jersey	38	3	4	7	33
Kasper Pikkarainen	20	6-3	194	Right	Helsinki, Fin.	85th overall (2024)	TPS (Liiga)	45	2	4	6	18
Evan Rodrigues	33	5-11	182	Right	Toronto, Ont.	Trade: Fla 6/30/26	Florida	69	11	20	31	38
David Rozsival	19	6-1	188	Left	Jablonec Nad Nisou, Cze.	161st overall (2025)	Green Bay (USHL)	57	23	14	37	10
Cam Squires	21	6-0	165	Right	Charlottetown, P.E.I.	122nd overall (2023)	Utica (AHL)	47	5	11	16	15

NEW YORK ISLANDERS

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2025-26 NUMBERS

RECORD
43-34-5 (.555)

OVERTIME
10-0

SHOOTOUT
4-5

OVERALL
19th

OFFENSE
2.79 GPG (25th)

DEFENSE
2.88 GAA (5th)

POWER PLAY
16.5% (30th)

PENALTY KILL
80.8% (10th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.68 (16th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.93 (29th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
B. Horvat (20:46)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
M. Schaefer (24:41)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Peter DeBoer

GM
Mathieu Darche

CAPTAIN
Vacant

ARENA
UBS Arena

CAPACITY
17,113

AHL AFFILIATE
Hamilton Hammers

ECHL AFFILIATE
Trenton Ironhawks

BY ALLAN KREDA

THE NEW YORK ISLANDERS missed the playoffs for the second consecutive year last season – and the third time in five campaigns. A late swoon led to Peter DeBoer replacing Patrick Roy at the helm with only four games remaining. Defenseman Matthew Schaefer was spectacular, though, winning the Calder Trophy.

GM Mathieu Darche remains focused on remaking the roster. He added Matias Maccelli in July after last season's late acquisitions of Ondrej Palat and Brayden Schenn. DeBoer, a respected figure who recently guided the Dallas Stars to the Western Conference final in three consecutive campaigns, starts the season behind the bench with the expectation of installing a defensive structure and mindset that will set the Islanders on the right path. Can the Islanders return to the playoffs or even compete for division supremacy? Goaltending and special teams will be crucial.

OFFENSE

The offense was led by Mathew Barzal, who put up 19 goals and 72 points. Schaefer finished second with 59 points, and Bo Horvat came third, collecting a team-leading 31 goals. Anders Lee added 42 points, but the Islanders chose not to keep the 36-year-old, who joined the Utah Mammoth after 923 games on Long Island. The Islanders will need contributions from Schenn and Maccelli, the latter of whom is coming off a 14-goal season with Toronto. They will also need a bounce-back year from Kyle Palm-

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ieri following ACL surgery. In terms of youngsters, Emil Heineman contributed 22 goals, and Calum Ritchie showed promise in his first full season.

DEFENSE

Provided they stay healthy, Ryan Pulock and Adam Pelech can still be elite. Schaefer is aiming to improve on his sterling opening season. Alexander Romanov adds size and speed to the lineup. He's looking forward to a fresh start after playing only 15 games last year due to a right-shoulder injury. Following a steady campaign, Tony DeAngelo signed a new two-year contract and will contribute on the power play. Scott Mayfield played 80 games and will be suiting up in his 13th season with the franchise this year. Isaiah George, 22, will compete for time on the blueline, and Matthew Kessel was added as a depth option.

GOALTENDING

The Islanders are hoping Ilya Sorokin and Semyon Varlamov can resume their successful tandem between the pipes. Sorokin, who is entering his seventh season on Long Island and is signed through 2031-32, is the clear No. 1 option and is coming off a year in which he went 29-24-2 and posted a 2.68 goals-against average. Varlamov, 38, has played well when healthy, but he played just 10 games with the Islanders in 2024-25 and none last season because of injuries. With that in mind, the club signed Vitek Vanecek as insurance.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Islanders' top power-play unit will have a new look, with Barzal, Horvat and Schaefer joined by Schenn and Palmieri. The second unit also looks promising, as Heineman, Ritchie, Maccelli, DeAngelo and Simon Holmstrom figure to be the configuration. However, New York's PP struggled last year, with the team clicking at just 16.5 percent (30th overall). On the other hand, the penalty kill has been a strength, thanks in part to the relentless ability of fleet-footed skaters such as Casey Cizikas and the versatile Jean-Gabriel Pageau. Horvat has also been a key contributor.

INTANGIBLES

Loud fans at UBS Arena are a constant asset for the Islanders, who have only reached the playoffs twice in their new home. The Islanders' core has been together for many years, with players and their families living close to the team's practice rink on Long Island. Those off-ice bonds surely help the team's on-ice performance. The looming question is who will replace Lee as captain.

The Hockey News CUP ODDS

49/1

ROOKIES

Schaefer was the team's prized addition heading into 2025-26 and exceeded all expectations. The Islanders may consider moving him to the right side to make room for George. Defenseman Kashawn Aitcheson, a 2025 first-rounder, will be with AHL Hamilton after concluding his junior career with the OHL's Barrie Colts.

X-FACTOR

For the Islanders to excel, Barzal must elevate his game. The 29-year-old needs to be at his best at even strength and must also help the Islanders improve their beleaguered power play. Assistant Rocky Thompson, who was promoted after coaching AHL Bridgeport last season, should help with the man advantage.

THE BRASS

Darche is entering his second season at the helm and made the bold choice to replace Roy with DeBoer. DeBoer has reached the conference final eight times in his coaching career, including trips to the Stanley Cup final in 2012 and 2016.

DEPTH CHART | 2026-27

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Emil Heineman	1. Bo Horvat	1. Kyle Palmieri
2. Calum Ritchie	2. Brayden Schenn	2. Mathew Barzal
3. Matias Maccelli	3. Jean-Gabriel Pageau	3. Simon Holmstrom
4. Ondrej Palat	4. Casey Cizikas	4. Anthony Duclair
5. Pierre Engvall	5. Kyle MacLean	5. Liam Foudy

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Matthew Schaefer	6. Tony DeAngelo	1. Ilya Sorokin
2. Ryan Pulock	7. Matthew Kessel	2. Semyon Varlamov
3. Adam Pelech	8. Isaiah George	3. Vitek Vanecek
4. Scott Mayfield	9. Calle Odelius	
5. Alexander Romanov	10. Ethan Bear	

■ INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Anders Lee, C; Carson Soucy, D; Maksim Shabanov, RW; David Rittich, G; Marc Gatcomb, C; Adam Boqvist, D

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Kashawn Aitcheson
Pos D **Age** 20
2025-26 Barrie (OHL)
Sharpshooter set Barrie's single-season goal record for a 'D' for second consecutive season.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

2. Victor Eklund
Pos RW **Age** 19
2025-26 Djurgarden (SHL)
Creates chances by keeping his feet moving and eyes scanning. Great AHL cameo last season.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

3. Malte Gustafsson
Pos D **Age** 18
2025-26 HV71 (SHL)
Offensive bent to blueliner's game. Using size more effectively will be key to maximizing potential.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

4. Dmitry Gamzin
Pos G **Age** 23
2025-26 CSKA Moscow (KHL)
Led KHL in GAA and shutouts, then had fourth-best playoff SP. Signed with CSKA until 2028.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

5. Danny Nelson
Pos C **Age** 21
2025-26 Notre Dame (Big Ten)
Fearless forechecker and Notre Dame captain suited up for college selects at Spengler Cup.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

6. Cole Eiserman
Pos LW **Age** 20
2025-26 Boston University (HE)
Big-league release and goal-scorer's mindset. Worked hard to develop two-way game at BU.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

7. Daniil Prokhorov
Pos RW **Age** 19
2025-26 Dynamo St. Pete (Rus.2)
Bounced around Russian circuit last season before moving to AHL. Heavy, punishing winger.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

8. Isaiah George
Pos D **Age** 22
2025-26 Bridgeport (AHL)
Isles pulled back after 33-game NHL stint in 2024-25. Set for big AHL minutes next season.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

9. Quinn Finley
Pos LW **Age** 22
2025-26 Wisconsin (Big Ten)
Looks for and often finds shooting lanes. Solid release and plays game with plenty of pace.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

10. Ryan Healey
Pos D **Age** 22
2025-26 Harvard (ECAC)
Fittingly, Harvard product leads with smarts on and off the puck. Has flash but lacks finish.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

POINTS-O-METER

2026-27 PROJECTIONS

FORWARDS **DEFENSEMEN**

100

80

Schaefer 79

76 Barzal

65 Horvat

60

48 Holmstrom
47 Palmieri

45 Ritchie

40

40 Schenn
40 Maccelli
39 Pageau

DeAngelo 34

28 Heineman

Pulock 26

20

22 Duclair
20 Palat

George 19

18 Cizikas
17 Engvall

Pelech 17
Romanov 15

Mayfield 12

9 MacLean

0

SCHEDULE

Wed, Sept 30	@ Toronto	7:30 PM
Sat, Oct 3	vs New Jersey	7:30 PM
Tue, Oct 6	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 8	vs Chicago	7:30 PM
Sat, Oct 10	vs Tampa Bay	7:30 PM
Tue, Oct 13	vs Vancouver	7:45 PM
Thu, Oct 15	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 17	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 20	vs Anaheim	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 22	vs Los Angeles	7:30 PM
Sun, Oct 25	@ Dallas	6:00 PM
Tue, Oct 27	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Thu, Oct 29	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Sat, Oct 31	vs Edmonton	3:30 PM
Thu, Nov 5	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 7	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Mon, Nov 9	@ San Jose	10:00 PM
Thu, Nov 12	@ Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Sat, Nov 14	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Tue, Nov 17	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 19	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Sat, Nov 21	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Mon, Nov 23	vs Toronto	7:30 PM
Wed, Nov 25	vs St. Louis	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 27	vs Winnipeg	7:30 PM
Sat, Nov 28	@ Philadelphia	7:30 PM
Tue, Dec 1	vs Florida	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 3	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 4	vs San Jose	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 7	vs Colorado	1:00 PM
Thu, Dec 10	vs Calgary	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 11	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 15	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Wed, Dec 16	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Fri, Dec 18	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Sun, Dec 20	vs NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 22	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 26	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 27	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Wed, Dec 30	vs Washington	4:00 PM
Sat, Jan 2	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Tue, Jan 5	@ Vancouver	9:00 PM
Thu, Jan 7	@ Calgary	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 9	@ Edmonton	3:30 PM
Wed, Jan 13	vs Pittsburgh	7:30 PM
Fri, Jan 15	vs Dallas	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 16	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 18	vs Nashville	3:00 PM
Wed, Jan 20	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Fri, Jan 22	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 23	vs Seattle	7:30 PM
Tue, Jan 26	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 28	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 30	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Mon, Feb 1	@ Florida	1:00 PM
Wed, Feb 3	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Fri, Feb 12	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 13	vs Minnesota	7:00 PM
Mon, Feb 15	vs Utah	3:00 PM
Thu, Feb 18	vs NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 20	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Mon, Feb 22	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Tue, Feb 23	@ Chicago	8:00 PM
Fri, Feb 26	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 27	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 1	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 4	vs Vegas	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 7	vs Pittsburgh	1:00 PM
Tue, Mar 9	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Fri, Mar 12	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 13	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 15	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Wed, Mar 17	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 20	vs Philadelphia	3:00 PM
Sun, Mar 21	vs Buffalo	3:00 PM
Thu, Mar 25	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Sat, Mar 27	vs Detroit	7:30 PM
Tue, Mar 30	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 1	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Fri, Apr 2	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sun, Apr 4	vs Montreal	7:30 PM
Tue, Apr 6	vs Detroit	7:30 PM
Thu, Apr 8	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 10	vs Columbus	5:00 PM

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ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

NEW YORK ISLANDERS

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Dmitry Gamzin	23	6-3	174	Left	Moscow, Rus.	115th overall (2024)	CSKA Moscow (KHL)	40	22-10-6	1.49	.938
Burke Hood	19	6-3	202	Left	Brandon, Man.	170th overall (2025)	Vancouver (WHL)	42	18-18-2	3.83	.892
Joshua Kotai	23	6-1	165	Right	Abbotsford, B.C.	Free Agent: signed 3/26/26	Augustana (CCHA)	35	20-11-4	1.99	.938
Ilya Sorokin	31	6-4	211	Left	Mezhdurechensk, Rus.	78th overall (2014)	NY Islanders	55	29-24-2	2.68	.906
Henrik Tikkanen	26	6-9	204	Left	Lohja, Fin.	214th overall (2020)	Bridgeport (AHL)	29	17-9-1	2.65	.897
Vitek Vanecek	30	6-2	184	Left	Havlickuv Brod, Cze.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Utah	22	5-13-3	2.93	.883
Semyon Varlamov	38	6-2	201	Left	Samara, Rus.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/19	Bridgeport (AHL)	2	2-0-0	1.50	.939

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Kashawn Aitcheson	20	6-2	196	Left	Scarborough, Ont.	17th overall (2025)	Barrie (OHL)	56	28	42	70	97
Ethan Bear	29	5-11	197	Right	Regina, Sask.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Bridgeport (AHL)	40	4	23	27	14
Tony DeAngelo	30	5-11	180	Right	Sewell, N.J.	Free Agent: signed 1/24/25	NY Islanders	76	5	30	35	43
Vladimir Dravecky	18	5-11	192	Right	Manchester, N.H.	141st overall (2026)	Brantford (OHL)	58	9	19	28	24
Isaiah George	22	6-1	196	Left	Oakville, Ont.	98th overall (2022)	Bridgeport (AHL)	47	2	16	18	20
Dennis Good Bogg	22	6-1	191	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	209th overall (2023)	Vasby/Karlskrona (Swe.3)	36	1	4	5	47
Malte Gustafsson	18	6-4	200	Left	Vackelsang, Swe.	13th overall (2026)	HV71 (SHL)	27	0	3	3	4
Ryan Healey	22	6-0	172	Right	Chicago, Ill.	Trade: Min 6/27/26	Harvard (ECAC)	34	4	8	12	28
Matthew Kessel	26	6-2	205	Right	Phoenix, Ariz.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	St. Louis	29	2	1	3	10
Lincoln Kuehne	18	6-2	203	Right	Fargo, N.D.	109th overall (2026)	Arizona State (NCHC)	30	1	1	2	20
Sam Laurila	20	6-0	184	Left	Moorhead, Minn.	138th overall (2025)	North Dakota (NCHC)	36	1	9	10	29
Tomas Machu	23	6-4	189	Right	Ostrava, Cze.	221st overall (2021)	Providence (HE)	35	0	4	4	20
Scott Mayfield	33	6-5	213	Right	St. Louis, Mo.	34th overall (2011)	NY Islanders	80	2	13	15	83
Calle Odelius	22	6-0	201	Left	Nykvarn, Swe.	65th overall (2022)	Worcester (ECHL)	23	2	6	8	4
Adam Pelech	32	6-3	210	Left	Toronto, Ont.	65th overall (2012)	NY Islanders	82	4	12	16	50
Jesse Pulkkinen	21	6-6	203	Left	Jyvaskyla, Fin.	54th overall (2024)	Worcester (ECHL)	36	9	9	18	14
Ryan Pulock	31	6-2	220	Right	Dauphin, Man.	15th overall (2013)	NY Islanders	76	3	24	27	16
Alexander Romanov	26	6-1	220	Left	Moscow, Rus.	Trade: Mtl 7/7/22	NY Islanders	15	0	1	1	6
Matthew Schaefer	19	6-2	183	Left	Hamilton, Ont.	1st overall (2025)	NY Islanders	82	23	36	59	38
Zachary Schulz	21	6-1	195	Left	Ann Arbor, Mich.	177th overall (2023)	Wisconsin (Big Ten)	12	0	3	3	12
Xavier Veilleux	20	6-0	189	Left	L'Ancienne-Lorette, Que.	179th overall (2024)	Cornell (ECAC)	34	6	20	26	12
Marshall Warren	25	5-11	189	Left	Laurel Hollow, N.Y.	Free Agent: signed 4/16/24	Bridgeport (AHL)	56	6	26	32	30

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Mathew Barzal	29	6-1	190	Right	Coquitlam, B.C.	16th overall (2015)	NY Islanders	81	19	53	72	61
Kamil Bednarik	20	6-0	185	Left	Elk Grove Village, Ill.	61st overall (2024)	Boston University (HE)	35	5	11	16	20
Casey Cizikas	35	5-11	194	Left	Toronto, Ont.	92nd overall (2009)	NY Islanders	81	10	8	18	20
Liam Foudy	26	6-1	186	Left	Scarborough, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/10/24	Bridgeport (AHL)	60	26	21	47	14
Bo Horvat	31	6-1	215	Left	London, Ont.	Trade: Van 1/30/23	NY Islanders	68	31	26	57	40
Ruslan Iskhakov	26	5-8	170	Left	Moscow, Rus.	43rd overall (2018)	Magnitogorsk (KHL)	65	17	21	38	30
Matias Maccelli	25	5-11	185	Left	Turku, Fin.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Toronto	71	14	25	39	16
Kyle MacLean	27	6-1	194	Left	Livingston, N.J.	Free Agent: signed 5/19/23	NY Islanders	59	2	5	7	40
Artyom Matyuk	18	6-1	174	Left	Moscow, Rus.	173rd overall (2026)	Nizhny Novgorod Jr. (Rus.)	54	13	26	39	53
Danny Nelson	21	6-3	202	Left	St. Louis Park, Minn.	49th overall (2023)	Notre Dame (Big Ten)	36	13	16	29	32
Jean-Gabriel Pageau	33	5-11	195	Right	Ottawa, Ont.	Trade: Ott 2/24/20	NY Islanders	74	17	18	35	4
Kyle Palmieri	35	5-11	195	Right	Smithtown, N.Y.	Trade: NJ 4/7/21	NY Islanders	25	6	12	18	8
Calum Ritchie	21	6-2	185	Right	Oakville, Ont.	Trade: Col 3/6/25	NY Islanders	65	13	17	30	22
Luca Romano	19	5-11	177	Right	Toronto, Ont.	74th overall (2025)	Kitchener (OHL)	55	14	19	33	22
Brayden Schenn	35	6-1	199	Left	Saskatoon, Sask.	Trade: StL 3/6/26	St. Louis/NY Islanders	80	18	21	39	68
Gleb Veremyev	23	6-4	205	Left	Monroe Township, N.J.	Free Agent: signed 3/21/25	Worcester (ECHL)	36	6	10	16	23

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Anthony Duclair	31	6-0	200	Left	Pointe-Claire, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	NY Islanders	62	12	15	27	12
Cole Eiserman	20	6-0	195	Left	Newburyport, Mass.	20th overall (2024)	Boston University (HE)	32	18	10	28	14
Pierre Engvall	30	6-5	215	Left	Ljungby, Swe.	Trade: Tor 2/28/23	NY Islanders			DNP		
Quinn Finley	22	5-11	168	Left	Valparaiso, Ind.	78th overall (2022)	Wisconsin (Big Ten)	37	17	16	33	22
Emil Heineman	24	6-2	198	Left	Leksand, Swe.	Trade: Mtl 6/27/25	NY Islanders	82	22	9	31	18
Alex Jefferies	24	6-0	200	Right	Framingham, Mass.	121st overall (2020)	Bridgeport (AHL)	60	9	20	29	46
Daylan Kuefler	24	6-2	195	Left	Red Deer, Alta.	174th overall (2022)	Bridgeport (AHL)	67	10	15	25	64
Jesse Nurmi	21	5-10	170	Left	Valkeala, Fin.	113th overall (2023)	London (OHL)	30	14	17	31	10
Ondrej Palat	35	6-0	194	Left	Frydek-Mistek, Cze.	Trade: NJ 1/27/26	New Jersey/NY Islanders	80	5	10	15	14
Tomas Poletin	19	6-1	200	Left	Prague, Cze.	106th overall (2025)	Kelowna (WHL)	43	20	15	35	38

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Mitchell Chaffee	28	6-1	204	Right	Grand Rapids, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Syracuse (AHL)	54	24	33	57	57
Robert Cowan	20	5-11	176	Right	Edina, Minn.	205th overall (2026)	Western Michigan (NCHC)	39	5	19	24	25
Victor Eklund	19	5-11	161	Right	Stockholm, Swe.	16th overall (2025)	Djurgarden (SHL)	43	6	18	24	22
Simon Holmstrom	25	6-2	215	Left	Tranas, Swe.	23rd overall (2019)	NY Islanders	79	19	22	41	16
Jacob Kvasnicka	19	5-11	170	Right	Burnsville, Minn.	202nd overall (2025)	Penticton (WHL)	65	35	50	85	21
Joey Larson	25	6-1	185	Right	Brighton, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 4/1/25	Bridgeport (AHL)	63	17	11	28	21
Matt Luff	29	6-2	196	Right	Oakville, Ont.	Trade: StL 2/24/26	Springfield/Bridgeport (AHL)	62	18	34	52	31
Daniil Prokhorov	19	6-5	209	Left	Krasnodar, Rus.	42nd overall (2025)	Dynamo St. Petersburg (Rus.2)	25	9	9	18	14

NEW YORK RANGERS

2025-26 NUMBERS

RECORD
34-39-9 (.470)

OVERTIME
6-8

SHOOTOUT
3-1

OVERALL
30th

OFFENSE
2.87 GPG (23rd)

DEFENSE
3.04 GAA (15th)

POWER PLAY
24.7% (5th)

PENALTY KILL
79.9% (15th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.46 (26th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.55 (11th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
A. Panarin (20:55)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
V. Gavrikov (23:44)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Mike Sullivan

GM
Chris Drury

CAPTAIN
J.T. Miller

ARENA
Madison Square Garden

CAPACITY
18,006

AHL AFFILIATE
Hartford Wolf Pack

ECHL AFFILIATE
Bloomington Bison

MIKA ZIBANEJAD

THN.COM/NYR • THN.COM/NYR • THN.COM/NYR • THN.COM/NYR • THN.COM/NYR • THN.COM/NYR • THN.COM/NYR • THN.COM/NYR • THN.COM/NYR

BY STEVE ZIPAY

A LONG, BITTER SHADOW fell on the Rangers and GM-president Chris Drury last season, staining the 100th anniversary of the Original Six franchise. The discouraged squad won just 14 games at MSG and lost 48 in total. The Rangers finished last in the East and missed the playoffs for the second consecutive season, prompting Drury to publicly proclaim a retool was on the way.

Meanwhile, the New York Knicks lifted long-suffering fans by ending a 53-year NBA title drought. The Rangers' last Stanley Cup was in 1994, and faithful fans have recently begged for numerous changes in order to compete as soon as possible, but as coach Mike Sullivan starts his second year, both he and Drury have Dolan's support. The blockbuster trade for Pavel Dorofeyev brings an elite sharpshooter to New York. Fresh off signing a seven-year, $77-million extension, Dorofeyev comes in with the expectation of being an offensive cornerstone. Some key players were kept, and a handful of trades addressed areas of need. The 2026-27 season won't be a stroll in the park, but as the saying goes, the only place to go is up.

OFFENSE

The Rangers ranked 23rd in scoring last season, averaging 2.87 goals per game. After numerous high-scoring seasons, Artemi Panarin collected just 19 goals in 52 games before he chose to be shipped to the Kings, and Vincent Trocheck was traded to Utah in July. Dorofeyev could raise

SERGEI BELSKI-IMAGN IMAGES

that level, though, and Oliver Bjorkstrand can also help the top six. Mika Zibanejad, Alexis Lafreniere, J.T. Miller, Gabe Perreault and Will Cuylle will once again play big roles. Cuylle's play improved, and he scored 20 goals and 38 points. Lafreniere had a major resurgence and really stepped up on a line with Perreault later in the season. Zibanejad led the way offensively, and Miller had some of his best games after the Olympics. Perhaps Dorofeyev's play can stir everyone.

DEFENSE

Although Adam Fox and Vladislav Gavrikov tried their best, the blueline couldn't find any speed or toughness last season, and as a result, Drury beefed it up in the off-season. Marcus Pettersson and Sean Durzi should be a solid second pairing. Urho Vaakanainen, Matthew Robertson, Braden Schneider and Drew Fortescue will battle for third-pairing minutes, while Scott Morrow and Marc Del Gaizo will be on deck. With Will Borgen traded to Boston, Alberts Smits, Dennis Cholowski and William Trudeau will all get looks in training camp.

GOALTENDING

Barring any significant injury, Igor Shesterkin will play between 50 and 60 games, and his skills should make the team competitive on any given night. With the retirement of Jonathan Quick, the Rangers acquired Joonas Korpisalo from the Bruins to be the backup. Dylan Garand looms as the No. 3 after an impressive stint with the Rangers last season.

SPECIAL TEAMS

There are two sides to the special-teams coin. The power play finished fifth last season at 24.7 percent and should improve with the addition of Dorofeyev. Lafreniere, Perreault, Miller, Cuylle, Fox and Durzi will also be contributors on the man advantage. On the other hand, the Rangers ranked 15th on the penalty kill at 79.9 percent, with opponents often finding open lanes to exploit. Expect Sullivan to stress positioning, quickness and board battles. Noah Laba and Jaroslav Chmelar will get opportunities to contribute on the PK.

INTANGIBLES

Hard work, chemistry, leadership and culture are hard to predict and quantify. Miller got better as the season progressed, but players such as Trocheck, Quick and Sam Carrick will be missed for their energy, attitude and teamwork. Who will step up? That won't be known until opening night.

The Hockey News CUP ODDS 70/1

ROOKIES

The development of young players has stalled or misfired in recent years, but the pipeline is being rebuilt as the Rangers push for a playoff spot. It's difficult to imagine a rookie jumping up and sticking this season, but Smits, the fifth pick overall this summer, could make some noise if he's given some room.

X-FACTOR

With his offensive prowess, Dorofeyev can make a real difference, so the three draft picks that were sent to Vegas were worth it. While he may need time to adjust to his new environment, he said the pressure is a privilege and joined other Rangers in Connecticut for summer training.

THE BRASS

James Dolan stepped back from the day-to-day business of the Rangers on July 3 and named his son, Quentin, as president, COO and alternate governor. Drury retains his dual role as GM and president but now answers to Quentin, who also adds the ownership responsibilities of AHL Hartford to his portfolio. H

DEPTH CHART | 2026-27

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Pavel Dorofeyev	1. Mika Zibanejad	1. Gabe Perreault
2. Alexis Lafreniere	2. J.T. Miller	2. Oliver Bjorkstrand
3. Will Cuylle	3. Noah Laba	3. Jaroslav Chmelar
4. Tye Kartye	4. Joe Veleno	4. Taylor Raddysh
5. Adam Sykora	5. Matt Rempe	5. Liam Greentree

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Adam Fox	6. Matthew Robertson	1. Igor Shesterkin
2. Vladislav Gavrikov	7. Urho Vaakanainen	2. Joonas Korpisalo
3. Sean Durzi	8. Drew Fortescue	3. Dylan Garand
4. Marcus Pettersson	9. Dennis Cholowski	
5. Braden Schneider	10. Scott Morrow	

INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Vincent Trocheck, C; Conor Sheary, LW; Jonny Brodzinski, C; Will Borgen, D; Jonathan Quick, G; Adam Edstrom, C; Brett Berard, LW

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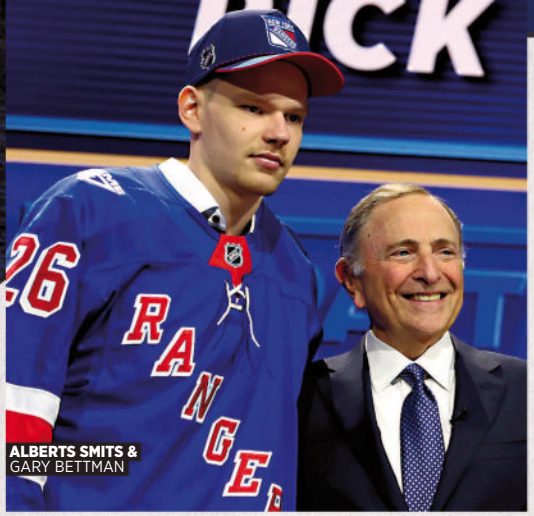

ALBERTS SMITS & GARY BETTMAN

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Alberts Smits
Pos D **Age** 18
2025-26 Jukurit (Liiga)
Latvian Olympian stood out on the biggest stage by holding his own against NHL talent.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

2. Liam Greentree
Pos RW **Age** 20
2025-26 Windsor (OHL)
Big winger uses reach and size to create offense. He was the center of Artemi Panarin trade with L.A.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

3. Cole Beaudoin
Pos C **Age** 20
2025-26 Barrie (OHL)
Tricky setup man was leading scorer in OHL post-season. Colts captain is a natural leader.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

4. Ben MacBeath
Pos D **Age** 18
2025-26 Calgary (WHL)
Steady trajectory for smooth-skating defender. After one season in WHL, he's off to Denver.
Expected NHL Arrival '30-31

5. Malcolm Spence
Pos LW **Age** 20
2025-26 Michigan (Big Ten)
Freshman standout at Michigan drags teammates into the fight. He has a pit-bull mentality.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

6. EJ Emery
Pos D **Age** 20
2025-26 North Dakota (NCHC)
Deep toolkit, but his best attributes are on defensive side, where he can play a shutdown role.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

7. Jacob Battaglia
Pos RW **Age** 20
2025-26 Flint (OHL)
Big decline in OHL production, but he came to life after trade to Flint. He'll move on to AHL this year.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

8. Danai Shaiikov
Pos G **Age** 19
2025-26 Gatineau (QMJHL)
Strong start, but he dropped off as season progressed. For now, he relies most on athleticism.
Expected NHL Arrival '31-32

9. Charlie Morrison
Pos D **Age** 18
2025-26 Quebec (QMJHL)
Game is built on limiting opposition, not creating offense. He's heading to UConn for 2026-27.
Expected NHL Arrival '30-31

10. Tomas Chrenko
Pos C **Age** 18
2025-26 Nitra (Svk.)
Fleet-footedness sees him speed to great areas. He'll have to bulk up to make jump overseas.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

POINTS-O-METER

2026-27 PROJECTIONS

FORWARDS	DEFENSEMEN
100	
80	
70 Zibanejad	
65 Dorofeyev	
64 Lafreniere	
	Fox 62
60	
58 Miller	
47 Perreault	
42 Cuylle	
42 Bjorkstrand	Durzi 41
40	
	Gavrikov 34
27 Laba	
25 Kartye	
24 Raddysh	
20	Schneider 20
	Robertson 18
17 Chmelar	Pettersson 18
14 Sykora	
11 Veleno	
	Morrow 9
8 Rempe	
	Fortescue 7
	Vaakanainen 6
0	

SCHEDULE

Tue, Sept 29	@ Boston	8:00 PM
Thu, Oct 1	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Fri, Oct 2	@ Detroit	6:30 PM
Sun, Oct 4	vs Utah	6:00 PM
Tue, Oct 6	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Fri, Oct 9	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Sun, Oct 11	vs Vancouver	6:00 PM
Tue, Oct 13	vs Tampa Bay	7:15 PM
Thu, Oct 15	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 17	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Mon, Oct 19	vs Anaheim	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 22	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 24	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Mon, Oct 26	vs Los Angeles	7:00 PM
Sun, Nov 1	vs Edmonton	6:00 PM
Tue, Nov 3	vs St. Louis	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 5	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 7	@ Seattle	5:00 PM
Mon, Nov 9	@ Edmonton	8:00 PM
Wed, Nov 11	@ Calgary	7:30 PM
Fri, Nov 13	@ Vancouver	9:00 PM
Mon, Nov 16	vs Montreal	7:30 PM
Sun, Nov 22	vs Carolina	1:00 PM
Wed, Nov 25	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 27	@ Chicago	5:30 PM
Sat, Nov 28	vs Calgary	7:00 PM
Mon, Nov 30	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 3	vs San Jose	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 5	vs Colorado	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 7	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 8	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 11	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 13	vs Columbus	6:00 PM
Tue, Dec 15	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Wed, Dec 16	@ Philadelphia	7:30 PM
Fri, Dec 18	vs Nashville	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 20	@ NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 22	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 27	@ St. Louis	5:00 PM
Tue, Dec 29	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 31	@ Dallas	9:00 PM
Sun, Jan 3	vs Columbus	6:00 PM
Tue, Jan 5	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 7	vs Chicago	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 9	@ San Jose	10:00 PM
Mon, Jan 11	@ Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Tue, Jan 12	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sat, Jan 16	vs Boston	12:00 PM
Sun, Jan 17	vs Dallas	6:00 PM
Tue, Jan 19	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 21	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 23	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Mon, Jan 25	vs Seattle	7:00 PM
Wed, Jan 27	vs Florida	7:30 PM
Fri, Jan 29	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 30	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Wed, Feb 3	vs Winnipeg	7:30 PM
Fri, Feb 12	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Sun, Feb 14	@ Montreal	1:00 PM
Mon, Feb 15	vs Buffalo	3:00 PM
Thu, Feb 18	@ NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 20	@ Philadelphia	12:00 PM
Sun, Feb 21	@ Carolina	1:00 PM
Tue, Feb 23	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Fri, Feb 26	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Sun, Feb 28	@ Pittsburgh	1:00 PM
Wed, Mar 3	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 6	@ Buffalo	3:00 PM
Sun, Mar 7	vs Vegas	6:00 PM
Tue, Mar 9	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Thu, Mar 11	@ Colorado	9:30 PM
Sat, Mar 13	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Tue, Mar 16	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 18	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 20	vs Pittsburgh	8:00 PM
Sun, Mar 21	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 23	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Thu, Mar 25	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 27	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 29	vs Minnesota	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 1	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 3	vs Florida	12:00 PM
Tue, Apr 6	vs Pittsburgh	7:30 PM
Sat, Apr 10	vs Toronto	7:00 PM

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ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

NEW YORK RANGERS

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Dylan Garand	24	6-1	177	Left	Victoria, B.C.	103rd overall (2020)	Hartford (AHL)	36	16-15-2	2.83	.896
Joonas Korpisalo	32	6-3	189	Left	Pori, Fin.	Trade: Bos 7/1/26	Boston	55	31-18-4	2.71	.908
Spencer Martin	31	6-3	191	Left	Oakville, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 11/12/25	Hartford (AHL)	22	3-13-6	3.51	.873
Danai Shaiikov	19	6-2	186	Left	Almaty, Kaz.	67th overall (2026)	Gatineau (QMJHL)	50	18-26-2	2.78	.903
Igor Shesterkin	30	6-1	195	Left	Moscow, Rus.	118th overall (2014)	NY Rangers	51	25-19-6	2.50	.912
Callum Tung	22	6-3	198	Left	Port Moody, B.C.	Free Agent: signed 4/1/25	Bloomington (ECHL)	19	8-9-2	3.10	.907

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Sean Barnhill	19	6-6	205	Right	Scottsdale, Ariz.	70th overall (2025)	Michigan State (Big Ten)	37	0	4	4	14
Dennis Cholowski	28	6-2	210	Left	Langley, B.C.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/26	New Jersey	17	0	2	2	2
Marc Del Gaizo	26	5-11	188	Left	Basking Ridge, N.J.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Laval (AHL)	63	9	18	27	38
Jackson Dorrington	22	6-2	192	Left	Manchester, N.H.	Trade: Van 1/31/25	Hartford (AHL)	70	2	9	11	69
Sean Durzi	27	6-1	196	Right	Mississauga, Ont.	Trade: Uth 7/1/26	Utah	60	5	22	27	50
EJ Emery	20	6-3	185	Right	Surrey, B.C.	30th overall (2024)	North Dakota (NCHC)	38	3	10	13	32
Felix Farhammar	19	6-1	185	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	203rd overall (2025)	Orebro Jr. (Swe.)	36	5	28	33	46
Drew Fortescue	21	6-1	176	Left	New York, N.Y.	90th overall (2023)	Boston College (HE)	36	4	10	14	47
Adam Fox	28	5-11	180	Right	Jericho, N.Y.	Trade: Car 4/30/19	NY Rangers	55	9	44	53	20
Vladislav Gavrikov	30	6-3	220	Left	Yaroslavl, Rus.	Trade: Clb 3/1/23	NY Rangers	82	14	21	35	50
Artem Gonchar	19	6-0	156	Left	Chelyabinsk, Rus.	89th overall (2025)	Sudbury (OHL)	65	15	36	51	31
Vincent Iorio	23	6-4	200	Right	Coquitlam, B.C.	Waivers: SJ 1/31/26	San Jose/NY Rangers	27	0	3	3	12
Rasmus Larsson	22	6-3	200	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	152nd overall (2023)	Robert Morris (AHA)	16	1	1	2	0
Zeb Lindgren	19	6-1	195	Left	Umea, Swe.	139th overall (2025)	Skelleftea Jr. (Swe.)	36	6	13	19	26
Ben MacBeath	18	6-2	188	Left	Calgary, Alta.	64th overall (2026)	Calgary (WHL)	67	7	44	51	16
Andre Mondoux	19	6-4	198	Left	North Bay, Ont.	162nd overall (2026)	Kingston (OHL)	66	6	12	18	48
Charlie Morrison	18	6-3	198	Left	Miramichi, N.B.	77th overall (2026)	Quebec (QMJHL)	41	4	9	13	58
Scott Morrow	23	6-2	210	Right	Darien, Conn.	Trade: Car 7/1/25	NY Rangers	34	5	14	19	69
Evan Passmore	19	6-5	212	Right	Elmira, Ont.	171st overall (2025)	Barrie (OHL)	66	3	7	10	58
Ivan Patrikhayev	20	6-0	185	Left	Yekaterinburg, Rus.	193rd overall (2026)	CSKA Moscow (KHL)	66	3	10	13	19
Marcus Pettersson	30	6-3	177	Left	Skelleftea, Swe.	Trade: Van 7/1/26	Vancouver	82	3	15	18	60
Matthew Robertson	25	6-4	211	Left	Edmonton, Alta.	49th overall (2019)	NY Rangers	72	6	12	18	38
Braden Schneider	25	6-4	213	Right	Prince Albert, Sask.	19th overall (2020)	NY Rangers	82	2	16	18	26
Alberts Smits	18	6-3	205	Left	Valmiera, Lat.	5th overall (2026)	Jukurit (Liiga)	38	6	7	13	20
William Trudeau	23	6-1	205	Left	Varennes, Que.	Trade: Mtl 6/26/26	Laval (AHL)	62	8	12	20	54
Urho Vaakanainen	27	6-2	205	Left	Joensuu, Fin.	Trade: Ana 12/6/24	NY Rangers	34	0	6	6	14

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Cole Beaudoin	20	6-2	209	Left	Ottawa, Ont.	Trade: Uth 7/1/26	Barrie (OHL)	54	33	55	88	29
Raoul Boilard	20	6-1	193	Left	Sherbrooke, Que.	119th overall (2024)	Shawinigan/Cape Breton (QMJHL)	61	16	21	37	59
Tomas Chrenko	18	5-11	172	Right	Nitra, Svk.	81st overall (2026)	Nitra (Svk.)	44	9	22	31	10
Justin Dowling	36	5-10	180	Left	Calgary, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Hartford (AHL)	46	9	20	29	4
Mikkel Eriksen	19	5-11	187	Left	Oslo, Nor.	111th overall (2025)	Farjestad Jr. (Swe.)	25	19	25	44	16
Glenn Gawdin	29	6-1	195	Right	Richmond, B.C.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Ontario (AHL)	71	16	35	51	73
Karl Henriksson	25	5-10	178	Left	Malmo, Swe.	58th overall (2019)	Vaxjo (SHL)	49	12	7	19	49
Noah Laba	23	6-2	191	Right	Northville, Mich.	111th overall (2022)	NY Rangers	74	9	15	24	31
Bryce McConnell-Barker	22	6-1	191	Left	London, Ont.	97th overall (2022)	Hartford (AHL)	69	14	11	25	22
J.T. Miller	33	6-1	218	Left	East Palestine, Ohio	Trade: Van 1/31/25	NY Rangers	68	17	36	53	33
Juuso Parssinen	25	6-3	212	Left	Hameenlinna, Fin.	Trade: Col 3/1/25	NY Rangers	20	2	1	3	10
Matt Rempe	24	6-9	255	Right	Calgary, Alta.	165th overall (2020)	NY Rangers	26	1	0	1	11
Dylan Roobroeck	22	6-7	207	Left	London, Ont.	178th overall (2023)	Hartford (AHL)	72	11	15	26	90
Carey Terrance	21	6-1	187	Left	Akwesasne, N.Y.	Trade: Ana 6/12/25	Hartford (AHL)	68	8	9	17	44
Aidan Thompson	24	5-11	180	Left	Fort Collins, Colo.	Trade: Chi 3/6/26	Rockford/Hartford (AHL)	58	8	14	22	22
Joe Veleno	26	6-1	201	Left	Montreal, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Montreal	61	2	3	5	19
Mika Zibanejad	33	6-2	203	Right	Stockholm, Swe.	Trade: Ott 7/18/16	NY Rangers	81	34	44	78	14

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Nathan Aspinall	20	6-6	181	Left	Markham, Ont.	159th overall (2024)	Flint (OHL)	65	33	61	94	42
Anton Blidh	31	6-1	196	Left	Molnlycke, Swe.	Trade: Col 3/3/23	Hartford (AHL)	64	8	8	16	56
Spencer Bowes	19	6-0	172	Left	Almonte, Ont.	102nd overall (2026)	Ottawa (OHL)	67	23	19	42	28
Will Cuylle	24	6-3	212	Left	Toronto, Ont.	60th overall (2020)	NY Rangers	82	20	18	38	65
Pavel Dorofeyev	25	6-1	194	Left	Nizhny Tagil, Rus.	Trade: Veg 6/26/26	Vegas	82	37	27	64	24
Rico Gredig	21	6-0	186	Left	Chur, Sui.	191st overall (2024)	Davos (Sui.)	47	3	4	7	14
Ty Henricks	21	6-5	205	Left	Mission Viejo, Calif.	183rd overall (2023)	Western Michigan (NCHC)	39	9	16	25	43
Tye Kartye	25	5-11	202	Left	Kingston, Ont.	Waivers: Sea 2/27/26	Seattle/NY Rangers	64	8	14	22	38
Alexis Lafreniere	24	6-2	196	Left	St-Eustache, Que.	1st overall (2020)	NY Rangers	82	24	33	57	20
Malcolm Spence	20	6-1	203	Left	Hamilton, Ont.	43rd overall (2025)	Michigan (Big Ten)	40	10	15	25	44
Adam Sykora	22	5-11	193	Left	Piestany, Svk.	63rd overall (2022)	Hartford (AHL)	62	12	17	29	28

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Darian Anderson	19	6-3	196	Right	Falls Church, Va.	163rd overall (2026)	Flint (OHL)	60	20	25	45	20
Jacob Battaglia	20	6-1	196	Left	Mississauga, Ont.	Trade: Cgy 3/6/26	Kingston/Flint (OHL)	64	26	22	48	61
Oliver Bjorkstrand	31	6-0	175	Right	Herning, Den.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Tampa Bay	80	12	20	32	16
Jaroslav Chmelar	23	6-4	226	Right	Nove Mesto nad Metuji, Cze.	144th overall (2021)	Hartford (AHL)	46	8	17	25	42
Liam Greentree	20	6-2	207	Left	Oshawa, Ont.	Trade: LA 2/4/26	Windsor (OHL)	52	38	36	74	63
Samuel Jung	20	6-3	172	Left	Wodzislaw Slaski, Pol.	166th overall (2025)	Karpat Jr. (Fin.)	37	16	13	29	83
Brody Lamb	23	6-1	165	Right	Rochester, Minn.	104th overall (2021)	Minnesota (Big Ten)	35	14	16	30	12
Lauri Pajuniemi	27	6-0	202	Right	Tampere, Fin.	132nd overall (2018)	Malmo (SHL)	51	16	22	38	54
Gabe Perreault	21	5-11	178	Left	Sherbrooke, Que.	23rd overall (2023)	NY Rangers	49	12	15	27	10
Taylor Raddysh	28	6-3	200	Right	Caledon, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	NY Rangers	68	9	10	19	12

OTTAWA SENATORS

2025-26 NUMBERS

RECORD
44-27-11 (.604)

OVERTIME
3-10

SHOOTOUT
3-1

OVERALL
9th

OFFENSE
3.35 GPG (8th)

DEFENSE
2.99 GAA (13th)

POWER PLAY
24.0% (8th)

PENALTY KILL
75.7% (29th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.78 (10th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.32 (2nd)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
T. Stutzle (20:16)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
J. Sanderson (24:50)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Travis Green

GM
Steve Staios

CAPTAIN
Vacant

ARENA
Canadian Tire Centre

CAPACITY
18,500

AHL AFFILIATE
Belleville Senators

ECHL AFFILIATE
Allen Americans

TIM STUTZLE

DAVID KIROUAC-IMAGN IMAGES

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BY DILLON COLLINS

DESPITE REACHING THE PLAYOFFS for a second year in a row, the Ottawa Senators will be eager to move on from a turbulent 2025-26 campaign. Injuries, off-ice controversy and inconsistency threatened to derail the season. Ottawa ultimately secured a wild-card spot, but its postseason run ended quickly, with a sweep at the hands of the eventual Stanley Cup-champion Carolina Hurricanes.

The departure of captain Brady Tkachuk dominated the off-season conversation, raising questions about Ottawa's leadership while creating excitement around a younger core led by Tim Stutzle and Jake Sanderson. The Senators added William Eklund, Andre Burakovsky and Samuel Ersson to supplement their depth, while an encouraging 2026 draft helped replenish the prospect pipeline. With a strong supporting cast and an eye on developing young talent, the Senators enter 2026-27 focused on contending and building a sustainable future in the nation's capital.

OFFENSE

Ottawa's offense took another step forward last season, finishing with 275 goals while featuring one of the league's top power-play units. The Senators converted 24.0 percent of their PP chances and scored 63 PP goals, consistently ranking near the league's top third in scoring efficiency. At 5-on-5, the team improved its chance generation and sustained offensive-zone time, but depth production fluctuated and was virtually nonexistent in the playoffs. Stutzle

JAKE SANDERSON

remains the engine of the offense, while Sanderson, Drake Batherson and Dylan Cozens headline a group capable of producing throughout the lineup. The additions of Eklund and Burakovsky bring creativity and transition speed, but Ottawa's biggest need is reliable secondary scoring.

DEFENSE

Ottawa's defensive core showed marked improvement in shot suppression, finishing tied for second in shots against (24.4) and 13th in goals against (245). And while Sanderson, Thomas Chabot and Artem Zub are the nucleus on the back end, the club's depth was tested down the stretch due to a rash of injuries. Tyler Kleven emerged as a reliable, physical presence, and Jordan Spence added mobility, puck movement and the ability to step into top-four minutes when needed. With the exit of Nick Jensen, Carter Yakemchuk has an opportunity to grab a full-time role. Improved health and steadier third-pair play will determine whether Ottawa becomes a top defensive club.

GOALTENDING

After posting historically poor numbers in the first half of the season, Ottawa's goaltending steadied in the playoffs. Despite losing all four games, Linus Ullmark recorded a 2.03 goals-against average and a .932 save percentage. Healthy and reunited with goalie coach Maciej Szwoch, Ullmark will look to regain his Vezina-winning form. The Senators are betting Ersson can rediscover his game as Ullmark's backup, while Leevi Merilainen will serve as a rotating third-string option.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Senators' special-teams units told two different stories last season. The power play remained a strength, but the penalty kill was anemic. The Senators struggled through the first half, operating one of the worst PKs before Mike Yeo assumed responsibility and stabilized the unit. While the late-season improvement was encouraging, the 75.7 percent success rate (29th overall) underscored the damage already done. Turning the penalty kill into a reliable asset must be a top priority.

INTANGIBLES

Ottawa's greatest strength last season may have been its resilience. Despite injuries and outside criticism, the team consistently leaned on its depth, remained committed to its identity and found ways to win. The group embraced a team-first mentality and refused to splinter when adversity struck. That resilience became a defining characteristic and provides a strong foundation as expectations continue to rise.

The Hockey News CUP ODDS 45/1

ROOKIES

After making his NHL debut in March and even getting into a playoff game, promising 'D' Yakemchuk enters training camp ready to make an impact. Ottawa's 2026 draft class added long-term upside, but neither of the two first-rounders (Jonas Lagerberg Hoen and Jaxon Cover) will be in the mix this year.

X-FACTOR

Only seven Sens recorded a point in the playoffs, and Batherson and Cozens were the only ones to find the back of the net. Additional secondary scoring will be vital if the team hopes for more regular-season success and a deeper playoff run.

THE BRASS

Coach Travis Green established a defense-first identity last season, helping Ottawa become more structured and difficult to play against. Rather than chasing big free agents, GM Steve Staios preached patience as the Senators try to become legitimate contenders. H

DEPTH CHART | 2026-27

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. William Eklund	1. Tim Stutzle	1. Drake Batherson
2. Ridly Greig	2. Dylan Cozens	2. Claude Giroux
3. Warren Foegele	3. Shane Pinto	3. Fabian Zetterlund
4. Nick Cousins	4. Stephen Halliday	4. Michael Amadio
5. Kurtis MacDermid	5. Philip Tomasino	5. Andre Burakovsky

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Jake Sanderson	6. Tyler Kleven	1. Linus Ullmark
2. Thomas Chabot	7. Nikolas Matinpalo	2. Samuel Ersson
3. Artem Zub	8. Samuel Bolduc	3. Leevi Merilainen
4. Jordan Spence	9. Cameron Crotty	
5. Carter Yakemchuk	10. Jorian Donovan	

INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Brady Tkachuk, LW; Nick Jensen, D; Lars Eller, C; James Reimer, G; Lassi Thomson, D; Dennis Gilbert, D

DAVID KIROUAC-IMAGN IMAGES

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Carter Yakemchuk
Pos D **Age** 21
2025-26 Belleville (AHL)
Not if but when for Yakemchuk. He was spectacular in the AHL and looked good in NHL reps.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

2. Logan Hensler
Pos D **Age** 19
2025-26 Wisconsin (Big Ten)
He can produce, but he's beginning to profile more as a reliable, minute-munching blueliner.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

3. Stephen Halliday
Pos C **Age** 24
2025-26 Belleville (AHL)
Not a big-league lamplighter, but skill set makes him a chameleon: adaptable to any role.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

4. Jonas Lagerberg Hoen
Pos RW **Age** 18
2025-26 Leksand Jr. (Swe.)
Of 30 points in 2024-25, 27 were goals. Torn ACL cost shoot-first winger most of last season.
Expected NHL Arrival '30-31

5. Jaxon Cover
Pos RW **Age** 18
2025-26 London (OHL)
Latecomer to organized hockey, but roller background provided creativity and puck skills.
Expected NHL Arrival '31-32

6. Adam Nemec
Pos LW **Age** 18
2025-26 Sudbury (OHL)
Fiery winger made seamless transition to OHL after mid-season move. Good vision and shot.
Expected NHL Arrival '30-31

7. Jorian Donovan
Pos D **Age** 22
2025-26 Belleville (AHL)
Leaning into big AHL minutes and PK-specialist role. Not the biggest but uses size well.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

8. Lucas Beckman
Pos G **Age** 19
2025-26 Chicoutimi (QMJHL)
Reads and sets rather than relying on pure reaction. Headed to third 'Q' club in two years.
Expected NHL Arrival '30-31

9. Kasper Halttunen
Pos RW **Age** 21
2025-26 San Jose (AHL)
Impressive output as North American rookie pro. Has physical assets but isn't the fleetest of foot.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

10. Blake Montgomery
Pos LW **Age** 21
2025-26 Wisconsin (Big Ten)
Speedy, sizable winger signed with Sens after single NCAA campaign. Middle-six ceiling.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

POINTS-O-METER

2026-27 PROJECTIONS

FORWARDS **DEFENSEMEN**

100

85 Stutzle

80

75 Batherson

Sanderson 64

63 Eklund

61 Cozens

60

45 Pinto

Chabot 43

40

40 Zetterlund

36 Burakovsky
36 Greig
32 Amadio

Spence 30

28 Foegele

Zub 24
Yakemchuk 23

23 Halliday
22 Cousins

20

Kleven 16

Matinpalo 10

0

SCHEDULE

Sat, Oct 3	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Mon, Oct 5	@ Boston	7:30 PM
Tue, Oct 6	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 8	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 10	vs Nashville	7:00 PM
Mon, Oct 12	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 13	vs St. Louis	7:30 PM
Thu, Oct 15	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 17	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Wed, Oct 21	vs Florida	7:30 PM
Thu, Oct 22	vs San Jose	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 24	vs NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 27	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Thu, Oct 29	@ Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Sat, Oct 31	@ San Jose	4:00 PM
Sun, Nov 1	@ Anaheim	8:00 PM
Wed, Nov 4	@ Buffalo	7:30 PM
Sat, Nov 7	vs Utah	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 10	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 12	vs Colorado	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 14	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 17	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Thu, Nov 19	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 21	vs Los Angeles	7:00 PM
Mon, Nov 23	vs Calgary	7:30 PM
Wed, Nov 25	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 27	@ Tampa Bay	3:00 PM
Sat, Nov 28	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Mon, Nov 30	@ Nashville	1:00 PM
Thu, Dec 3	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 5	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 6	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 8	vs Anaheim	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 10	vs Vegas	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 12	vs Edmonton	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 14	vs Buffalo	2:00 PM
Fri, Dec 18	vs Chicago*	1:00 PM
Sun, Dec 20	@ Chicago*	8:00 AM
Sun, Dec 27	@ NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 29	vs Dallas	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 31	vs Pittsburgh	2:00 PM
Sat, Jan 2	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 5	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Wed, Jan 6	@ Colorado	9:30 PM
Fri, Jan 8	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Tue, Jan 12	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 14	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 16	@ Tampa Bay	3:30 PM
Mon, Jan 18	@ Florida	7:30 PM
Wed, Jan 20	vs Toronto	7:30 PM
Sat, Jan 23	vs Columbus	3:30 PM
Mon, Jan 25	vs Carolina	7:30 PM
Thu, Jan 28	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 30	vs NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Tue, Feb 9	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 11	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 13	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Mon, Feb 15	@ Minnesota	7:30 PM
Wed, Feb 17	@ Seattle	9:40 PM
Thu, Feb 18	@ Vancouver	9:00 PM
Sun, Feb 21	@ Calgary	7:00 PM
Mon, Feb 22	@ Edmonton	7:30 PM
Thu, Feb 25	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Fri, Feb 26	@ Buffalo	7:30 PM
Tue, Mar 2	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 4	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 6	vs Seattle	3:30 PM
Sun, Mar 7	vs Buffalo	5:00 PM
Tue, Mar 9	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 11	vs Minnesota	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 13	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 14	vs Vancouver	5:00 PM
Tue, Mar 16	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 18	vs Florida	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 20	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Wed, Mar 24	@ Montreal	7:30 PM
Thu, Mar 25	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 27	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 30	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Fri, Apr 2	@ NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Sun, Apr 4	vs Detroit	5:00 PM
Wed, Apr 7	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 8	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 10	vs Montreal	7:00 PM

*Global Series in Germany

JANA CHYTILOVA/BELLEVILLE SENATORS

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

OTTAWA SENATORS

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Lucas Beckman	19	6-2	182	Left	Montreal, Que.	97th overall (2025)	Baie-Comeau/Chicoutimi (QMJHL)	38	17-15-3	2.60	.917
Samuel Ersson	26	6-3	194	Left	Falun, Swe.	Trade: Tor 6/26/26	Philadelphia	33	14-11-5	3.12	.870
Elliot Lennon	18	6-5	181	Left	Montreal, Que.	110th overall (2026)	Deerfield (USHS)	26	n/a	1.84	.936
Leevi Merilainen	24	6-3	186	Left	Oulu, Fin.	71st overall (2020)	Ottawa	20	8-10-1	3.51	.860
Vladimir Nikitin	21	6-4	199	Left	Ekibastuz, Kaz.	207th overall (2023)	New Hampshire (NAHL)	4	n/a	3.13	.904
Jackson Parsons	22	6-1	203	Left	Ottawa, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/3/25	Allen (ECHL)	22	11-9-1	2.41	.923
Kevin Reidler	22	6-7	209	Left	Gavle, Swe.	151st overall (2022)	Penn State (Big Ten)	18	11-7-0	3.31	.901
Andrei Trofimov	20	6-2	187	Left	Magnitogorsk, Rus.	213th overall (2025)	Magnitogorsk Jr. (Rus.)	13	6-3-1	2.78	.886
Linus Ullmark	33	6-4	215	Left	Lugnvik, Swe.	Trade: Bos 6/24/24	Ottawa	49	28-12-8	2.73	.891

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Matthew Andonovski	21	6-2	215	Left	Markham, Ont.	140th overall (2023)	Kitchener (OHL)	24	1	13	14	43
Samuel Bolduc	25	6-4	224	Left	Laval, Que.	Trade: LA 3/12/26	Ontario/Belleville (AHL)	68	6	25	31	24
Thomas Chabot	29	6-1	203	Left	St-Marie, Que.	18th overall (2015)	Ottawa	57	7	24	31	22
Cameron Crotty	27	6-3	213	Right	Ottawa, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 8/25/25	Belleville (AHL)	49	3	7	10	29
Jorian Donovan	22	6-1	200	Left	Calgary, Alta.	136th overall (2022)	Belleville (AHL)	61	4	17	21	89
Gabriel Eliasson	20	6-7	212	Left	Kungsbacka, Swe.	39th overall (2024)	Barrie (OHL)	61	2	6	8	122
Alexander Grunin	18	6-4	187	Left	Novosibirsk, Rus.	183rd overall (2026)	Novosibirsk Jr. (Rus.)	44	6	9	15	18
Tomas Hamara	22	6-0	194	Left	Prague, Cze.	87th overall (2022)	Belleville (AHL)	48	4	2	6	18
Logan Hensler	19	6-2	192	Right	Woodbury, Minn.	23rd overall (2025)	Wisconsin (Big Ten)	23	4	8	12	20
Tyler Kleven	24	6-5	221	Left	Fargo, N.D.	44th overall (2020)	Ottawa	70	3	15	18	53
Christian Kyrou	23	5-11	173	Right	Toronto, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Texas/Lehigh Valley (AHL)	59	10	24	34	16
Nikolas Matinpalo	27	6-3	211	Right	Espoo, Fin.	Free Agent: signed 5/25/23	Ottawa	50	0	5	5	16
Filip Nordberg	22	6-5	211	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	64th overall (2022)	Merrimack (HE)	38	0	7	7	64
Harris Pangretitsch	18	6-4	219	Right	Toronto, Ont.	151st overall (2026)	Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)	67	2	12	14	53
Jake Sanderson	24	6-2	204	Left	Whitefish, Mont.	5th overall (2020)	Ottawa	67	14	40	54	8
Jordan Spence	25	5-11	180	Right	Manly, Aus.	Trade: LA 6/28/25	Ottawa	73	7	24	31	22
Hoyt Stanley	21	6-3	204	Right	West Vancouver, B.C.	108th overall (2023)	Cornell (ECAC)	34	3	12	15	33
Djibril Toure	23	6-7	217	Right	Montreal, Que.	Free Agent: signed 9/21/23	Belleville (AHL)	38	1	3	4	119
Theo Wallberg	22	6-4	214	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	168th overall (2022)	Western Michigan (NCHC)	37	2	12	14	22
Eerik Wallenius	20	6-4	217	Left	Salo, Fin.	136th overall (2024)	Moncton (QMJHL)	56	2	10	12	73
Carter Yakemchuk	21	6-3	209	Right	Fort McMurray, Alta.	7th overall (2024)	Belleville (AHL)	54	10	30	40	36
Artem Zub	30	6-3	200	Right	Khabarovsk, Rus.	Free Agent: signed 5/1/20	Ottawa	81	5	25	30	57

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Owen Beckner	21	6-2	193	Left	Victoria, B.C.	204th overall (2023)	Colorado College (NCHC)	30	8	15	23	4
Xavier Bourgault	23	5-10	179	Right	L'Islet, Que.	Trade: Edm 7/15/24	Belleville (AHL)	70	25	32	57	34
Nick Cousins	33	5-11	186	Left	Belleville, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 8/29/24	Ottawa	81	9	14	23	92
Dylan Cozens	25	6-3	207	Right	Whitehorse, Yukon	Trade: Buf 3/7/25	Ottawa	82	28	31	59	59
Philippe Daoust	24	6-1	195	Left	Barrie, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Belleville (AHL)	63	14	36	50	24
Tyson Dyck	22	6-0	189	Left	Abbotsford, B.C.	206th overall (2022)	Wisconsin (Big Ten)	26	5	10	15	24
Ridly Greig	24	6-0	188	Left	Lethbridge, Alta.	28th overall (2020)	Ottawa	77	13	22	35	83
Stephen Halliday	24	6-4	212	Left	Ajax, Ont.	104th overall (2022)	Ottawa	30	4	7	11	2
Oscar Holmertz	18	6-0	187	Left	Linkoping, Swe.	87th overall (2026)	Linkoping Jr. (Swe.)	34	13	23	36	2
Eskild-Bakke Olsen	24	6-2	203	Right	Hamar, Nor.	Free Agent: signed 6/15/26	Linkoping (SHL)	51	11	21	32	10
Shane Pinto	25	6-3	204	Right	Franklin Square, N.Y.	32nd overall (2019)	Ottawa	72	23	23	46	42
Ryan Suzuki	25	6-1	196	Left	London, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Chicago (AHL)	66	13	35	48	30
Brandon Svoboda	21	6-3	205	Right	Pittsburgh, PA.	Trade: SJ 6/23/26	Boston University (HE)	35	6	9	15	14
Philip Tomasino	25	6-0	190	Right	Mississauga, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	WBS/Lehigh Valley (AHL)	52	12	29	41	53

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Sammy Blais	30	6-2	206	Left	Montmagny, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Laval (AHL)	35	14	24	38	62
Andre Burakovsky	31	6-3	203	Left	Klagenfurt, Aut.	Trade: Ott 6/26/26	Chicago	75	11	22	33	16
William Eklund	23	5-11	181	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	Trade: SJ 6/23/26	San Jose	78	15	38	53	32
Lucas Ellinas	20	6-2	200	Left	Etobicoke, Ont.	104th overall (2024)	Kitchener (OHL)	6	3	0	3	4
Warren Foegele	30	6-2	204	Left	Markham, Ont.	Trade: LA 3/5/26	Los Angeles/Ottawa	68	13	4	17	18
Bruno Idzan	20	6-0	195	Left	Zagreb, Cro.	181st overall (2025)	Wisconsin (Big Ten)	20	2	3	5	14
Dmitri Isayev	19	5-9	148	Right	Tolyatti, Rus.	149th overall (2025)	Yekaterinburg Jr. (Rus.)	44	28	33	61	54
Kurtis MacDermid	32	6-5	233	Left	Quebec, Que.	Trade: NJ 10/3/25	Ottawa	19	0	1	1	33
Blake Montgomery	21	6-4	178	Left	Bowie, Md.	117th overall (2024)	Wisconsin (Big Ten)	38	9	8	17	67
Javon Moore	20	6-3	195	Left	St. Louis Park, Minn.	112th overall (2024)	Minnesota (Big Ten)	36	8	13	21	4
Adam Nemec	18	6-0	173	Left	Liptovsky Mikulas, Svk.	72nd overall (2026)	Sudbury (OHL)	31	14	21	35	15
Tim Stutzle	24	6-0	192	Left	Viersen, Ger.	3rd overall (2020)	Ottawa	80	34	49	83	39
Fabian Zetterlund	27	5-11	220	Right	Karlstad, Swe.	Trade: SJ 3/7/25	Ottawa	82	17	16	33	16

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Michael Amadio	30	6-1	199	Right	Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Ottawa	81	15	20	35	18
Drake Batherson	28	6-3	200	Right	Fort Wayne, Ind.	121st overall (2017)	Ottawa	79	33	38	71	33
Tyler Boucher	23	6-2	216	Right	Scottsdale, Ariz.	10th overall (2021)	Belleville (AHL)	47	12	14	26	68
Louis-Felix Bourque	18	6-2	214	Right	Quebec, Que.	91st overall (2026)	Drummondville (QMJHL)	54	24	25	49	16
Jaxon Cover	18	6-2	183	Left	Coral Springs, Fla.	32nd overall (2026)	London (OHL)	67	20	32	52	48
Claude Giroux	38	5-11	188	Right	Hearst, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/13/22	Ottawa	82	14	35	49	22
Kasper Halttunen	21	6-3	215	Right	Helsinki, Fin.	Trade: SJ 6/23/26	San Jose (AHL)	69	16	19	35	45
Hayden Hodgson	30	6-2	221	Right	Windsor, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/24	Belleville (AHL)	47	6	5	11	134
Jonas Lagerberg Hoen	18	6-2	185	Right	Mora, Swe.	25th overall (2026)	Leksand Jr. (Swe.)	9	9	7	16	33
Cameron O'Neill	22	6-0	194	Right	Odenton, Md.	143rd overall (2022)	UMass (HE)	31	5	9	14	8
Oskar Pettersson	22	6-2	209	Right	Halmstad, Swe.	72nd overall (2022)	Belleville (AHL)	69	9	9	18	16
Blake Vanek	19	6-2	205	Right	Stillwater, Minn.	93rd overall (2025)	Wenatchee/Calgary (WHL)	69	19	17	36	45
Nicholas Vantassell	22	6-4	214	Right	Staten Island, N.Y.	215th overall (2023)	UMass (HE)	26	2	10	12	10

PHILADELPHIA FLYERS

TRAVIS KONECNY

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2025-26 NUMBERS

RECORD
43-27-12 (.598)

OVERTIME
6-8

SHOOTOUT
10-4

OVERALL
11th

OFFENSE
2.93 GPG (21st)

DEFENSE
2.91 GAA (9th)

POWER PLAY
15.7% (32nd)

PENALTY KILL
77.6% (22nd)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.45 (27th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.38 (3rd)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
T. Konecny (19:05)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
T. Sanheim (24:13)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Rick Tocchet

GM
Daniel Briere

CAPTAIN
Sean Couturier

ARENA
Xfinity Mobile Arena

CAPACITY
19,600

AHL AFFILIATE
Lehigh Valley Phantoms

ECHL AFFILIATE
Reading Royals

BY WAYNE FISH

GETTING AHEAD OF THE bustle created by the NHL draft and free agency, the Flyers addressed some off-season needs early by pulling off a significant trade on June 16. In a deal with Toronto, they upgraded their goaltending and defense by acquiring Joseph Woll – as backup to Dan Vladar – and Simon Benoit. No. 2 netminder Samuel Ersson and defenseman Emil Andrae headed north.

Coming off a surprise third-place finish in the Metropolitan Division and a mild upset of Pittsburgh in the first round, the Flyers will look to continue that progress with a young roster. The youth corps might include 2026 first-rounder Maksim Sokolovskii, a 6-foot-7 defenseman with surprising speed and agility for a player of his size. GM Daniel Briere put the Flyers in the spotlight by tendering a five-year, $90-million offer sheet to Anaheim's Leo Carlsson. Coach Rick Tocchet's crew created quite a bit of excitement in Philly after five years out of the playoffs, and this proud franchise is once again headed in the right direction.

OFFENSE

While Travis Konecny and Owen Tippett figured to be among the Flyers' top scorers at last season's start, Trevor Zegras – who came over in a trade with Anaheim – was a bit of a question mark. But Zegras completed his first season with 26 goals, just a notch below Tippett's 28 and Konecny's 27. On defense, Travis Sanheim once again led the way, with Jamie Drysdale a close second. Noah Cates and Chris-

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TRAVIS SANHEIM

SERGEI BELSKI-IMAGN IMAGES

tian Dvorak also established or tied career highs in goals. The Flyers' offense has improved each of the past five seasons and finally had a positive goal differential, so the offense is trending up. If Tyson Foerster can bounce back from an injury-marred season and Matvei Michkov can return to his 26-goal form, the Flyers will be in good shape here.

DEFENSE

Tocchet stressed defensive accountability, and the result was a 44-goal improvement over the previous season. Not only did the superb goaltending of Vladar help, but the return of D-man Rasmus Ristolainen after a lengthy injury – stabilizing the top pairing alongside Sanheim – also played a big role. The trio of Sean Couturier, Garnet Hathaway and Luke Glendening created a shutdown line, but Hathaway (trade) and Glendening (UFA) have left town. Pairing Noel Acciari and Nikita Grebenkin could form an effective checking unit. A full season of Ristolainen, the addition of Benoit and the possible promotion of rookie Oliver Bonk should have the defense trending slightly upward.

GOALTENDING

Vladar's play last season was a big step forward for a team that has searched for stability in the crease for years. The most noteworthy aspect of acquiring Woll is that he should provide proven talent behind Vladar, who looked a bit overworked and fatigued down the stretch last year. Briere signed Vladar to a five-year, $27.5-million extension on July 1.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Let's get this out of the way right away: the Flyers' power play has been historically bad. How bad? It's finished last in four of the past five seasons. On the flip side, the penalty kill hasn't been half bad, finishing 22nd last season at 77.6 percent, not far back from 16th-ranked Minnesota (79.8 percent). The Flyers must find a leader on the power play. Drysdale has done a decent job, but the team needs a heavy shot from the point and better work from Tippett, Foerster and Michkov in close.

INTANGIBLES

Couturier may not have 30-goal hands anymore, but he can throttle guys who do. With 14 seasons under his belt, he's the senior statesman of all Philadelphia pro athletes and a respected captain. Tocchet instilled a degree of toughness by having his charges complete their checks and know when to pick their spots. Nick Seeler is a role model in that department.

The Hockey News CUP ODDS 33/1

ROOKIES

No one saw them coming, but the NHL is certainly watching now. Porter Martone, Alex Bump and Denver Barkey all showed up during the season, and they all made positive impressions. Tocchet even showed faith by starting the first-year trio on a line together. That hasn't happened in a long time.

X-FACTOR

A healthy Vladar tops the list of things that have to happen for continued improvement, and the play of Woll will dictate how much rest he gets. Michkov and Tocchet seemed to have their differences last season. Michkov needs to show up for camp in top shape to get back in Tocchet's good graces.

THE BRASS

CEO Dan Hilferty tends to stay on the business side and lets Briere, Tocchet and president of hockey ops Keith Jones run the hockey show. Briere has taken a patient approach to this rebuild, and the fruits of his labors are beginning to show. All three played for the Flyers and know what the team's success means to the city. H

DEPTH CHART | 2026-27

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Tyson Foerster	1. Trevor Zegras	1. Travis Konecny
2. Alex Bump	2. Christian Dvorak	2. Owen Tippett
3. Denver Barkey	3. Noah Cates	3. Matvei Michkov
4. Carl Grundstrom	4. Sean Couturier	4. Porter Martone
5. Nikita Grebenkin	5. Noel Acciari	5. Jett Luchanko

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Travis Sanheim	6. Simon Benoit	1. Dan Vladar
2. Rasmus Ristolainen	7. Oliver Bonk	2. Joseph Woll
3. Cam York	8. David Jiricek	3. Aleksei Kolosov
4. Jamie Drysdale	9. Helge Grans	
5. Nick Seeler	10. Hunter McDonald	

■ INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Samuel Ersson, G; Emil Andrae, D; Garnet Hathaway, RW; Luke Glendening, LW; Rodrigo Abols, C; Noah Juulsen, D

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Porter Martone
Pos RW **Age** 19
2025-26 Michigan State (Big Ten)
Brash winger has already won over Flyers fans. Arguably no bigger compliment in the sport.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

2. Oliver Bonk
Pos D **Age** 21
2025-26 Lehigh Valley (AHL)
Wasn't intimidated by pro stage, nor the NHL spotlight. Plays with poise beyond his years.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

3. Jack Nesbitt
Pos C **Age** 19
2025-26 Windsor (OHL)
Penalty-killer, net-front power-play presence and own-zone faceoff demon. He does it all.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

4. Jett Luchanko
Pos C **Age** 20
2025-26 Brantford (OHL)
Eight games of NHL experience across two seasons for sound, speedy center. He's a pro now.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

5. David Jiricek
Pos D **Age** 22
2025-26 Lehigh Valley (AHL)
On third NHL team since being drafted at No. 6 in 2022. He has talent, but concerns are growing.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

6. Egor Zavragin
Pos G **Age** 21
2025-26 SKA-St. Pete. (Rus.2)
Now in Magnitogorsk, he stands to benefit from more consistent starts. He needs those reps.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

7. Maksim Sokolovskii
Pos D **Age** 18
2025-26 London (OHL)
Towering 6-foot-7 shutdown 'D' uses tools he's blessed with: size, reach and physicality.
Expected NHL Arrival '30-31

8. Jack Berglund
Pos C **Age** 20
2025-26 Farjestad (SHL)
Goals get glamour, but he will crash and bang, too. Captained Sweden's WJC-winning squad.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

9. Alex Bump
Pos LW **Age** 22
2025-26 Lehigh Valley (AHL)
Blossomed in college and has continued on upward trajectory. Looked solid in 23 NHL games.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

10. Brek Liske
Pos D **Age** 18
2025-26 Everett (WHL)
Versatile defender who is positionally sound but slight in frame. Limited offensive upside.
Expected NHL Arrival '30-31

POINTS-O-METER

2026-27 PROJECTIONS

FORWARDS **DEFENSEMEN**

100

80

72 Konecny
67 Zegras
65 Martone

60

60 Michkov

52 Tippett

47 Foerster

44 Cates

Drysdale 42

40

40 Dvorak

Sanheim 37

34 Barkey
33 Couturier

York 24

22 Luchanko

20

20 Grebenkin

Ristolainen 19

18 Acciari

Bonk 16
Seeler 15

13 Grundstrom

Benoit 8

0

SCHEDULE

Wed, Sept 30	vs Pittsburgh	7:30 PM
Thu, Oct 1	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 3	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Mon, Oct 5	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 8	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 10	@ Boston	1:00 PM
Sun, Oct 11	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 13	vs Seattle	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 15	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 17	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Mon, Oct 19	vs Colorado	7:00 PM
Wed, Oct 21	@ Buffalo	7:30 PM
Sat, Oct 24	vs Anaheim	1:00 PM
Tue, Oct 27	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Wed, Oct 28	@ Washington	7:30 PM
Sun, Nov 1	vs Utah	4:00 PM
Tue, Nov 3	vs Minnesota	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 5	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Sun, Nov 8	@ Calgary	7:00 PM
Mon, Nov 9	@ Vancouver	9:30 PM
Wed, Nov 11	@ Edmonton	9:00 PM
Sat, Nov 14	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sun, Nov 15	vs Edmonton	7:30 PM
Tue, Nov 17	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 19	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 21	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 25	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 27	vs Vancouver	3:00 PM
Sat, Nov 28	vs NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Mon, Nov 30	@ Toronto	7:30 PM
Thu, Dec 3	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 5	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Tue, Dec 8	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Fri, Dec 11	vs Calgary	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 14	vs Florida	7:00 PM
Wed, Dec 16	vs NY Rangers	7:30 PM
Fri, Dec 18	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 20	@ Boston	1:00 PM
Mon, Dec 21	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 27	@ Chicago	3:00 PM
Tue, Dec 29	@ Seattle	9:40 PM
Fri, Jan 1	@ San Jose	4:00 PM
Sun, Jan 3	@ Anaheim	8:00 PM
Mon, Jan 4	@ Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Thu, Jan 7	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 9	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 10	vs Chicago	7:30 PM
Tue, Jan 12	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Fri, Jan 15	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 16	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 19	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 21	vs Nashville	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 23	vs New Jersey	7:30 PM
Tue, Jan 26	vs Florida	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 28	vs Los Angeles	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 30	vs Winnipeg	1:00 PM
Sun, Jan 31	@ Pittsburgh	12:00 PM
Wed, Feb 3	vs Tampa Bay	7:30 PM
Sat, Feb 13	vs New Jersey	7:30 PM
Mon, Feb 15	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Thu, Feb 18	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Sat, Feb 20	vs NY Rangers	12:00 PM
Mon, Feb 22	vs Montreal	1:00 PM
Wed, Feb 24	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Fri, Feb 26	@ NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 27	vs San Jose	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 2	vs Vegas	7:00 PM
Fri, Mar 5	vs Dallas	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 7	vs St. Louis	1:00 PM
Tue, Mar 9	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Thu, Mar 11	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Sat, Mar 13	@ Utah	5:00 PM
Tue, Mar 16	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 18	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 20	@ NY Islanders	3:00 PM
Tue, Mar 23	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 25	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 27	@ Florida	6:00 PM
Tue, Mar 30	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 1	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 3	@ Pittsburgh	8:00 PM
Mon, Apr 5	@ Carolina	2:00 PM
Thu, Apr 8	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 10	vs Washington	12:00 PM

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ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

PHILADELPHIA FLYERS

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Carson Bjarnason	21	6-3	186	Left	Brandon, Man.	51st overall (2023)	Lehigh Valley (AHL)	32	14-11-7	3.43	.877
Aleksei Kolosov	24	6-1	185	Left	Minsk, Blr.	78th overall (2021)	Lehigh Valley (AHL)	38	15-21-2	2.98	.895
Martin Psohlavec	18	6-5	183	Left	Ostrov, Cze.	62nd overall (2026)	Karlovy Vary Jr. (Cze.)	42	31-11-0	1.92	.928
Marek Sklenicka	18	6-3	171	Left	Most, Cze.	120th overall (2026)	Seattle (WHL)	42	20-12-6	3.21	.902
Dan Vladar	29	6-5	209	Left	Prague, Cze.	Trade: Bos 7/28/21	Philadelphia	52	29-14-7	2.42	.906
Joseph Woll	28	6-3	206	Left	Dardenne Prairie, Mo.	Trade: Tor 6/16/26	Toronto	39	15-16-7	3.34	.899
Egor Zavragin	21	6-3	183	Left	Novosibirsk, Rus.	87th overall (2023)	SKA-VMF St. Petersburg (Rus.2)	18	10-6-2	1.44	.949

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Carter Amico	19	6-5	225	Right	Portland, Maine	38th overall (2025)	Muskegon (USHL)	27	1	10	11	41
Simon Benoit	28	6-4	211	Left	Laval, Que.	Trade: Tor 6/16/26	Toronto	73	0	6	6	41
Oliver Bonk	21	6-2	180	Right	Ottawa, Ont.	22nd overall (2023)	Lehigh Valley (AHL)	46	6	13	19	22
Cam Dineen	28	5-11	188	Left	Toms River, N.J.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Bakersfield (AHL)	40	3	18	21	22
Jamie Drysdale	24	5-11	185	Right	Toronto, Ont.	Trade: Ana 1/8/24	Philadelphia	78	8	24	32	33
Jackson Edward	22	6-2	193	Left	Newmarket, Ont.	Trade: Bos 3/6/26	Maine (ECHL)	21	0	7	7	28
Spencer Gill	20	6-4	185	Right	Moncton, N.B.	59th overall (2024)	Blainville-Boisbriand (QMJHL)	16	3	8	11	23
Helge Grans	24	6-4	205	Right	Ljungby, Swe.	Trade: LA 6/6/23	Lehigh Valley (AHL)	61	3	11	14	29
David Jiricek	22	6-4	204	Right	Klatovy, Cze.	Trade: Min 3/6/26	Iowa/Lehigh Valley (AHL)	39	4	19	23	25
Max Laatikainen	18	6-0	185	Right	Karlstad, Swe.	213th overall (2026)	Kiekko-Espoo Jr. (Fin.)	22	3	8	11	2
Brek Liske	18	6-1	190	Right	Winnipeg, Man.	53rd overall (2026)	Everett (WHL)	52	7	17	24	20
Hunter McDonald	24	6-4	205	Left	Fairport, N.Y.	165th overall (2022)	Lehigh Valley (AHL)	65	0	6	6	92
Austin Moline	20	6-4	193	Right	Las Vegas, Nev.	205th overall (2024)	Madison (USHL)	17	1	8	9	46
Ty Murchison	23	6-2	192	Left	Corona, Calif.	158th overall (2021)	Lehigh Valley (AHL)	29	2	4	6	46
Rasmus Ristolainen	31	6-4	208	Right	Turku, Fin.	Trade: Buf 7/23/21	Philadelphia	44	1	13	14	16
Travis Sanheim	30	6-4	222	Left	Elkhorn, Man.	17th overall (2014)	Philadelphia	81	11	26	37	20
Nick Seeler	33	6-3	197	Left	Eden Prairie, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/28/21	Philadelphia	80	4	6	10	38
Maksim Sokolovskii	18	6-7	238	Left	Petropavlovsk, Kaz	27th overall (2026)	London (OHL)	44	2	6	8	49
Luke Vlooswyk	19	6-5	200	Right	Calgary, Alta.	157th overall (2025)	Red Deer/Everett (WHL)	63	1	10	11	48
Cam York	25	6-0	194	Left	Anaheim, Calif.	14th overall (2019)	Philadelphia	74	4	22	26	28

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Noel Acciari	34	5-11	209	Right	Johnston, R.I.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Pittsburgh	67	13	12	25	25
Zachary Aston-Reese	32	6-1	200	Left	Staten Island, N.Y.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Columbus	27	1	4	5	12
Denver Barkey	21	5-9	155	Left	Newmarket, Ont.	95th overall (2023)	Philadelphia	43	5	12	17	16
Jack Berglund	20	6-3	209	Left	Karlstad, Swe.	51st overall (2024)	Farjestad (SHL)	40	7	5	12	26
Sean Couturier	33	6-4	210	Left	Phoenix, Ariz.	8th overall (2011)	Philadelphia	78	12	24	36	30
Christian Dvorak	30	6-1	190	Left	Palos, Ill.	Trade: Ari 9/4/21	Philadelphia	80	18	33	51	27
Matthew Gard	19	6-5	192	Left	Winnipeg, Man.	57th overall (2025)	Red Deer/Seattle (WHL)	55	17	16	33	82
Jacob Gaucher	25	6-3	185	Right	Longueuil, Que.	Free Agent: signed 12/12/24	Lehigh Valley (AHL)	69	20	16	36	44
Jett Luchanko	20	5-11	180	Right	London, Ont.	13th overall (2024)	Guelph/Brantford (OHL)	38	7	36	43	34
Ryan MacPherson	21	6-0	176	Left	Windsor, Ont.	172nd overall (2023)	New Hampshire (HE)	30	2	2	4	10
Owen McLaughlin	23	6-0	160	Left	Phoenixville, Pa.	206th overall (2021)	Boston University (HE)	34	5	12	17	4
Jack Nesbitt	19	6-4	185	Left	Sarnia, Ont.	12th overall (2025)	Windsor (OHL)	55	25	33	58	67
Nathan Quinn	19	5-11	173	Right	Chateauguay, Que.	164th overall (2025)	Quebec (QMJHL)	58	34	39	73	13
Heikki Ruohonen	20	6-1	204	Left	Helsinki, Fin.	107th overall (2024)	Harvard (ECAC)	28	6	13	19	18
Kent Sauer	18	6-3	202	Right	St. Cloud, Minn.	136th overall (2026)	Andover (USHS)	15	8	17	25	42
Jack Studnicka	27	6-1	187	Right	Windsor, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Charlotte (AHL)	41	12	18	30	34
Riley Thompson	24	6-4	216	Left	Orleans, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 3/22/26	Ohio State (Big Ten)	37	13	14	27	60
Trevor Zegras	25	6-0	185	Left	Bedford, N.Y.	Trade: Ana 6/23/25	Philadelphia	81	26	41	67	62

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Alex Bump	22	6-0	195	Left	Burnsville, Minn.	133rd overall (2022)	Lehigh Valley (AHL)	36	11	15	26	22
Noah Cates	27	6-2	194	Left	Stillwater, Minn.	137th overall (2017)	Philadelphia	82	18	29	47	44
Alex Ciernik	21	5-11	176	Left	Wolfsburg, Ger.	120th overall (2023)	Nybro (Swe.2)	21	2	3	5	6
Nolan Foote	25	6-3	196	Left	Denver, Colo.	Free Agent: signed 7/3/26	Charlotte (AHL)	54	14	18	32	40
Jack Murtagh	19	6-1	200	Left	Albany, N.Y.	40th overall (2025)	Boston University (HE)	35	6	5	11	25
Max Westergard	19	5-11	161	Left	Tampere, Fin.	132nd overall (2025)	Frolunda Jr. (Swe.)	20	9	21	30	26

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Tyson Foerster	24	6-2	215	Right	Alliston, Ont.	23rd overall (2020)	Philadelphia	29	13	4	17	22
Nikita Grebenkin	23	6-2	210	Left	Serov, Rus.	Trade: Tor 3/7/25	Philadelphia	55	4	10	14	46
Carl Grundstrom	28	6-0	200	Left	Umea, Swe.	Trade: SJ 10/5/25	Philadelphia	47	9	4	13	19
Devin Kaplan	22	6-2	199	Right	Bridgewater, N.J.	69th overall (2022)	Lehigh Valley (AHL)	49	5	8	13	62
Danila Klimovich	23	6-2	202	Right	Pinsk, Blr.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Abbotsford (AHL)	63	18	16	34	62
Cole Knuble	22	5-10	184	Right	Grand Rapids, Mich.	103rd overall (2023)	Notre Dame (Big Ten)	36	9	22	31	32
Travis Konecny	29	5-10	192	Right	London, Ont.	24th overall (2015)	Philadelphia	77	27	41	68	59
Porter Martone	19	6-3	208	Right	Peterborough, Ont.	6th overall (2025)	Michigan State (Big Ten)	35	25	25	50	78
Matvei Michkov	21	5-10	172	Left	Perm, Rus.	7th overall (2023)	Philadelphia	81	20	31	51	71
Ilya Pautov	20	5-11	167	Left	Novosibirsk, Rus.	173rd overall (2024)	CSKA Moscow Jr. (Rus.)	30	10	13	23	16
Noah Powell	21	6-1	201	Right	Northbrook, Ill.	148th overall (2024)	Arizona State (NCHC)	34	7	5	12	32
Owen Tippett	27	6-1	210	Right	Peterborough, Ont.	Trade: Fla 3/19/22	Philadelphia	81	28	23	51	32
Shane Vansaghi	19	6-2	210	Right	St. Louis, Mo.	48th overall (2025)	Michigan State (Big Ten)	35	4	7	11	28

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS

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2025-26 NUMBERS

RECORD
41-25-16 (.598)

OVERTIME
4-6

SHOOTOUT
3-10

OVERALL
10th

OFFENSE
3.54 GPG (3rd)

DEFENSE
3.15 GAA (24th)

POWER PLAY
24.1% (7th)

PENALTY KILL
81.4% (6th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.90 (4th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.73 (20th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
B. Rust (19:57)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
E. Karlsson (23:36)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Dan Muse

GM
Kyle Dubas

CAPTAIN
Sidney Crosby

ARENA
PPG Paints Arena

CAPACITY
18,187

AHL AFFILIATE
Wilkes-Barre/ Scranton Penguins

ECHL AFFILIATE
Florida Everblades

BY SHELLY ANDERSON

THE MOVES MADE BY the Penguins around the opening of free agency left the fan base wondering if things were still on an upward trajectory. None of those transactions seemed to provide star power to augment the big three of Sidney Crosby, Evgeni Malkin and Kris Letang – four if you count Erik Karlsson.

The most notable deal was re-signing Malkin, 40, for one year, something that seemed iffy most of the season. Many of the other moves were reclamation projects – bottom-six forwards and right-handed defensemen (which leaves the left side of the defense sparse). Given the departure of impact players through trades or free agency, some players will need to step up if the Penguins hope to make it back to the playoffs. There was a buzz after Pittsburgh drafted twins Liam and Markus Ruck in the first and second rounds, but they are at least a couple of years away.

OFFENSE

Once again, things begin and end with Crosby, who scored 29 goals in 68 games at 38 and prolonged his point-per-game record to 21 consecutive seasons. Malkin (61 points) and Karlsson (66 points) had resurgent years as the Penguins finished third overall in scoring. Anthony Mantha was a revelation, but following a 33-goal season, he opted to sign with New Jersey. Free-agent signee Andrei Kuzmenko is his de facto replacement, and trade acquisition Nicholas Robertson is expected to contribute. Bryan

SERGEI BELSKI-IMAGN IMAGES

ERIK KARLSSON

DAN HAMILTON-IMAGN IMAGES

Rust and Rickard Rakell are reliable, but they also remain the subject of trade speculation. Egor Chinakhov was a gem of an in-season acquisition, and rookie Ben Kindel emerged as a potential long-term third-line center. While Tommy Novak and Blake Lizotte seem to be locked in, there is a long list of contenders battling for playing time, including David Gustafsson, Hendrix Lapierre, Elmer Soderblom, Justin Brazeau, Connor Dewar, Filip Hallander, Rutger McGroarty and Ville Koivunen.

DEFENSE

With the team's penchant for blowing leads and the D-corps' ill-timed mistakes, there were going to be changes. But Pittsburgh practically blew things up, particularly by trading Parker Wotherspoon and letting Ryan Shea walk. Karlsson will need to repeat his resurgent season, and Letang will have to bounce back. Those two right-siders will be surrounded by plenty of new faces, including Declan Carlile, Kaedan Korczak and Trevor van Riemsdyk. Samuel Girard, Ryan Graves, Ilya Solovyov and Jake Livanavage constitute the other left-siders. The glut on the right side could block 20-year-old Harrison Brunicke from getting consistent minutes.

GOALTENDING

Pittsburgh is going young. With Stuart Skinner gone, Sergei Murashov, 22, and Arturs Silovs, 25, will share the net in some manner. Murashov has five games of NHL experience but has been one of the best AHL goalies the past two seasons, while Silovs was Skinner's capable backup as a rookie. Joel Blomqvist will continue waiting in the wings.

SPECIAL TEAMS

With a star-studded group quarterbacked by Karlsson, Pittsburgh ranked seventh on the power play, but there were some lulls throughout the season. Everyone who spent significant time on the top unit returns, though. The penalty kill, which finished sixth in the NHL, lost Shea, Wotherspoon and Noel Acciari, but Rust became a regular, and Lizotte was a bulldog. Both units continue to remain strengths for the Penguins.

INTANGIBLES

Crosby's leadership has aged like fine wine. He's still the hardest worker in practice and one of the game's most talented and respected players. It's no accident that Kindel sat next to Crosby in the dressing room. Although Crosby is only under contract through this season and has said he wants to take things one year at a time, his status won't be a distraction – because he won't let it be.

The Hockey News CUP ODDS 42/1

ROOKIES

Murashov has a clear path to regular playing time in the crease, but two other Penguins prospects, Brunicke and Tristan Broz, have a lot of bodies to compete against after the off-season moves. They will have to make some noise in training camp if they wish to make the opening-night roster.

X-FACTOR

GM Kyle Dubas has stated a desire to get younger outside of the core, especially with impact players in their 20s, but this team still has plenty of players who are older than 30. Can the team continue to get younger while remaining in contention?

THE BRASS

The Hoffmann Family of Companies officially took over ownership in June. They pledged to provide Dubas with whatever he needed and expressed full confidence in him – perhaps putting too much pressure on him. Meanwhile, coach Dan Muse flawlessly deployed his players in ways that worked during his rookie season. Can he repeat that feat? H

DEPTH CHART | 2026-27

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Rickard Rakell	1. Sidney Crosby	1. Bryan Rust
2. Andrei Kuzmenko	2. Tommy Novak	2. Evgeni Malkin
3. Egor Chinakhov	3. Ben Kindel	3. Nicholas Robertson
4. Connor Dewar	4. Blake Lizotte	4. Justin Brazeau
5. Elmer Soderblom	5. Hendrix Lapierre	5. Rutger McGroarty

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Erik Karlsson	6. Kaedan Korczak	1. Sergei Murashov
2. Kris Letang	7. Harrison Brunicke	2. Arturs Silovs
3. Declan Carlile	8. Ilya Solovyov	3. Joel Blomqvist
4. Trevor van Riemsdyk	9. Ryan Graves	
5. Samuel Girard	10. Jake Livanavage	

■ INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Anthony Mantha, RW; Parker Wotherspoon, D; Ryan Shea, D; Stuart Skinner, G; Noel Acciari, C; Connor Clifton, D; Kevin Hayes, RW; Jack St. Ivany, D; Joona Koppanen, LW

HARRISON BRUNICKE

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Harrison Brunicke
Pos D **Age** 20
2025-26 Kamloops (WHL)
The puck is usually heading up ice when he's out there. He'll need to fine-tune defensive acumen.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

2. William Horcoff
Pos C **Age** 19
2025-26 Michigan (Big Ten)
He broke out and created buzz with 25 goals in 40 games at Michigan. Also skilled defensively.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

3. Liam Ruck
Pos RW **Age** 18
2025-26 Medicine Hat (WHL)
The lamplighter of the Ruck boys, he has a penchant for finding soft spots in coverage.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

4. Markus Ruck
Pos C **Age** 18
2025-26 Medicine Hat (WHL)
The playmaker to twin bro's triggerman. He spots (and then makes) passes his peers don't.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

5. Sergei Murashov
Pos G **Age** 22
2025-26 WB/Scranton (AHL)
Did his numbers sparkle? No. But breathtaking athleticism was on display in his NHL outings.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

6. Owen Pickering
Pos D **Age** 22
2025-26 WB/Scranton (AHL)
Evolving and embracing blue-collar rearguard role. Playing shutdown and PK minutes in AHL.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

7. Bill Zonnon
Pos RW **Age** 19
2025-26 Blain.-Bois. (QMJHL)
Among Baby Pens' top playoff scorers, the two-way winger is primed for middle-six AHL role.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

8. Tomas Galvas
Pos D **Age** 20
2025-26 Liberec (Cze.)
Small by NHL standards but makes up for size by closing gaps and creating with his skating.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

9. Joel Blomqvist
Pos G **Age** 24
2025-26 WB/Scranton (AHL)
Most positional of Pens' young keepers. Waiting for next shot after 15 games in 2024-25.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

10. Pierce Mbuyi
Pos LW **Age** 18
2025-26 Owen Sound (OHL)
OHL's 2024-25 top rookie will need to bulk up to hang with college competition at Penn State.
Expected NHL Arrival '30-31

POINTS-O-METER

2026-27 PROJECTIONS

FORWARDS **DEFENSEMEN**

100

88 Crosby

80

68 Rust
68 Malkin

62 Rakell

60

Karlsson 59

45 Chinakhov

42 Kindel

40

40 Novak
40 Robertson

37 Kuzmenko

Letang 34

26 McGroarty
25 Dewar
23 Brazeau

20

Girard 19

18 Lapierre
17 Soderblom

15 Lizotte

van Riemsdyk 14
Korczak 12

Pickering 9
Carlile 7

0

SCHEDULE

Wed, Sept 30	@ Philadelphia	7:30 PM
Sat, Oct 3	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Mon, Oct 5	vs Winnipeg	7:30 PM
Wed, Oct 7	@ Washington	7:30 PM
Fri, Oct 9	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 10	vs Dallas	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 13	@ Chicago	8:00 PM
Fri, Oct 16	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Sat, Oct 17	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Mon, Oct 19	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Thu, Oct 22	vs Florida	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 24	vs Nashville	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 29	vs Utah	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 31	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 3	vs Vegas	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 5	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 7	@ Los Angeles	9:00 PM
Sun, Nov 8	@ Anaheim	8:00 PM
Wed, Nov 11	@ San Jose	10:00 PM
Sat, Nov 14	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 19	vs St. Louis	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 21	@ Nashville	6:00 PM
Sun, Nov 22	@ Dallas	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 25	vs Calgary	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 27	@ Buffalo	8:00 PM
Sat, Nov 28	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Mon, Nov 30	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Wed, Dec 2	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Sat, Dec 5	vs New Jersey	3:00 PM
Sun, Dec 6	vs San Jose	3:00 PM
Tue, Dec 8	vs Chicago	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 10	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 12	@ Tampa Bay	3:30 PM
Tue, Dec 15	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 17	vs Los Angeles	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 18	vs Seattle	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 22	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 26	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 29	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 31	@ Ottawa	2:00 PM
Fri, Jan 1	vs Minnesota	6:00 PM
Sun, Jan 3	vs Edmonton	3:00 PM
Thu, Jan 7	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 9	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 12	vs Colorado	7:00 PM
Wed, Jan 13	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Sat, Jan 16	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 18	vs Washington	4:00 PM
Thu, Jan 21	vs Anaheim	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 23	vs Vancouver	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 25	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 26	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Fri, Jan 29	vs NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 31	vs Philadelphia	12:00 PM
Tue, Feb 2	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 13	@ Edmonton	7:00 PM
Mon, Feb 15	@ Seattle	4:00 PM
Tue, Feb 16	@ Vancouver	9:00 PM
Fri, Feb 19	@ Calgary	8:00 PM
Sun, Feb 21	@ Winnipeg	6:00 PM
Tue, Feb 23	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Thu, Feb 25	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Sun, Feb 28	vs NY Rangers	1:00 PM
Tue, Mar 2	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 4	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 6	@ Boston	12:00 PM
Sun, Mar 7	@ NY Islanders	1:00 PM
Tue, Mar 9	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 11	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 13	vs Washington	3:00 PM
Sun, Mar 14	vs Detroit	2:00 PM
Tue, Mar 16	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 18	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 20	@ NY Rangers	8:00 PM
Mon, Mar 22	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 25	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 27	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 30	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 1	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 3	vs Philadelphia	8:00 PM
Sun, Apr 4	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Tue, Apr 6	@ NY Rangers	7:30 PM
Fri, Apr 9	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 10	@ New Jersey	6:00 PM

BRIAN JOHNSON/KAMLOOPS BLAZERS

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Joel Blomqvist	24	6-3	200	Left	Uusikaarlepyy, Fin.	52nd overall (2020)	Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (AHL)	26	16-5-6	2.40	.913
Gabriel D'Aigle	19	6-4	211	Left	Sorel-Tracy, Que.	84th overall (2025)	Victoriaville (QMJHL)	39	14-21-3	3.58	.908
Taylor Gauthier	25	6-2	209	Right	Calgary, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 3/7/26	Wheeling (ECHL)	36	21-9-5	2.09	.929
Sergei Murashov	22	6-2	175	Right	Yaroslavl, Rus.	118th overall (2022)	Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (AHL)	38	24-9-4	2.20	.919
Matvei Nikonovich	18	6-1	150	Left	Minsk, Blr.	160th overall (2026)	Togliatti Jr. (Rus.)	38	20-14-4	1.96	.939
Arturs Silovs	25	6-4	203	Left	Riga, Lat.	Trade: Van 7/13/25	Pittsburgh	39	19-12-8	3.07	.888

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Alexander Alexeyev	26	6-4	229	Left	St. Petersburg, Rus.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/25	Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (AHL)	38	3	9	12	21
Quinn Beauchesne	19	6-0	184	Right	Ottawa, Ont.	148th overall (2025)	Guelph (OHL)	56	7	28	35	57
Harrison Brunicke	20	6-3	195	Right	Johannesburg, Rsa.	44th overall (2024)	Kamloops (WHL)	24	2	22	24	20
Declan Carlile	26	6-3	192	Left	Hartland, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Tampa Bay	42	1	2	3	40
Tomas Galvas	20	5-11	148	Left	Zlin, Cze.	54th overall (2026)	Liberec (Cze.)	32	8	16	24	10
Samuel Girard	28	5-10	170	Left	Roberval, Que.	Trade: Col 2/24/26	Colorado/Pittsburgh	60	3	16	19	23
Ryan Graves	31	6-5	222	Left	Yarmouth, N.S.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Pittsburgh	22	1	0	1	10
Finn Harding	21	6-2	192	Right	Toronto, Ont.	223rd overall (2024)	Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (AHL)	54	4	18	22	42
Caleb Jones	29	6-1	194	Left	Arlington, Texas	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Pittsburgh	7	0	1	1	0
Kalle Kangas	21	6-4	205	Left	Vantaa, Fin.	223rd overall (2023)	HPK (Liiga)	51	0	5	5	49
Erik Karlsson	36	6-0	186	Right	Landsbro, Swe.	Trade: SJ 8/6/23	Pittsburgh	75	15	51	66	22
Philip Kemp	27	6-3	202	Right	Greenwich, Conn.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/25	Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (AHL)	70	3	7	10	56
Peyton Kettles	19	6-5	190	Right	Winnipeg, Man.	39th overall (2025)	Swift Current/Kelowna (WHL)	5	1	2	3	15
Kaedan Korczak	25	6-3	201	Right	Yorkton, Sask.	Trade: Veg 6/30/26	Vegas	78	3	13	16	26
Daniel Laatsch	24	6-5	182	Left	Altoona, Pa.	215th overall (2021)	Wheeling (ECHL)	29	3	8	11	6
Kris Letang	39	6-0	193	Right	Montreal, Que.	62nd overall (2005)	Pittsburgh	74	3	31	34	38
Jake Livanavage	22	5-11	190	Left	Gilbert, Ariz.	Free Agent: signed 4/10/26	North Dakota (NCHC)	39	5	20	25	10
Brady Peddle	19	6-3	194	Left	Antigonish, N.S.	91st overall (2025)	Charlottetown (QMJHL)	62	3	16	19	48
Owen Pickering	22	6-5	200	Left	St. Adolphe, Man.	21st overall (2022)	Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (AHL)	68	7	21	28	28
Chase Pietila	22	6-2	186	Right	Howell, Mich.	111th overall (2024)	Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (AHL)	66	2	14	16	85
Ilya Solovyov	26	6-3	208	Left	Mogilev, Blr.	Trade: Col 1/20/26	Colorado/Pittsburgh	30	1	7	8	16
Charlton Trethewey	19	6-1	200	Right	Baltimore, Md.	73rd overall (2025)	Boston University (HE)	34	1	9	10	21
Joona Vaisanen	22	6-0	175	Right	Espoo, Fin.	175th overall (2024)	Western Michigan (NCHC)	7	0	6	6	2
Trevor van Riemsdyk	35	6-3	191	Right	Middletown, N.J.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Washington	68	3	11	14	18
Parker Von Richter	20	6-2	195	Right	Toronto, Ont.	111th overall (2026)	Brampton/Barrie (OHL)	66	12	37	49	41

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Tristan Broz	23	6-0	205	Left	River Falls, Wis.	58th overall (2021)	Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (AHL)	47	16	23	39	41
Atley Calvert	23	6-1	194	Right	Moose Jaw, Sask.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (AHL)	70	16	22	38	28
Sidney Crosby	39	5-11	200	Left	Cole Harbour, N.S.	1st overall (2005)	Pittsburgh	68	29	45	74	44
Kale Dach	19	5-10	165	Left	Edmonton, Alta.	201st overall (2025)	Calgary (WHL)	63	34	41	75	24
Luke Devlin	22	6-2	185	Left	Memphis, Tenn.	182nd overall (2022)	Cornell (ECAC)	20	3	2	5	8
Connor Dewar	27	5-10	192	Left	The Pas, Man.	Trade: Tor 3/7/25	Pittsburgh	78	14	16	30	19
David Gustafsson	26	6-2	196	Left	Tingsryd, Swe.	Trade: Wpg 6/29/26	Manitoba (AHL)	48	10	22	32	12
Filip Hallander	26	6-1	190	Left	Sundsvall, Swe.	Trade: Tor 7/17/21	Pittsburgh	13	1	3	4	2
William Horcoff	19	6-5	190	Left	Edmonton, Alta.	24th overall (2025)	Michigan (Big Ten)	40	25	14	39	64
Ben Kindel	19	5-10	176	Right	Coquitlam, B.C.	11th overall (2025)	Pittsburgh	77	17	18	35	18
Hendrix Lapierre	24	6-0	180	Left	Gatineau, Que.	Trade: Wsh 6/25/26	Washington	74	4	12	16	31
Blake Lizotte	28	5-9	173	Left	Lindstrom, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Pittsburgh	55	7	12	19	25
Evgeni Malkin	40	6-5	210	Left	Magnitogorsk, Rus.	2nd overall (2004)	Pittsburgh	56	19	42	61	61
Ryan Miller	19	6-0	177	Left	Medicine Hat, Alta.	130th overall (2025)	Portland (WHL)	65	30	45	75	78
Tommy Novak	29	6-1	179	Left	St. Paul, Minn.	Trade: Nsh 3/5/25	Pittsburgh	82	16	26	42	24
Zam Plante	22	5-9	161	Left	Mannheim, Ger.	150th overall (2022)	Minnesota-Duluth (NCHC)	40	20	30	50	2
Vasiliy Ponomarev	24	5-10	180	Left	Moscow, Rus.	Trade: Car 3/7/24	Omsk (KHL)	55	14	11	25	41
Markus Ruck	18	6-0	167	Left	Osoyoos, B.C.	39th overall (2026)	Medicine Hat (WHL)	68	21	87	108	28
Mac Swanson	20	5-8	167	Left	Nuremberg, Ger.	207th overall (2024)	North Dakota (NCHC)	40	11	17	28	4
Kirill Tankov	24	6-1	180	Left	Yurga, Rus.	218th overall (2021)	Cherepovets (KHL)	42	9	4	13	15

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Tanner Howe	20	5-10	183	Left	Prince Albert, Sask.	46th overall (2024)	Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (AHL)	27	8	8	16	43
Emil Jarventie	21	5-10	167	Left	Vantaa, Fin.	217th overall (2023)	Pyry (Fin.2)	21	7	10	17	2
Ville Koivunen	23	5-11	161	Left	Oulu, Fin.	Trade: Car 3/7/24	Pittsburgh	39	2	5	7	10
Andrei Kuzmenko	30	5-11	194	Right	Yakutsk, Rus.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Los Angeles	52	13	12	25	16
Pierce Mbuyi	18	5-10	163	Left	Mississauga, Ont.	86th overall (2026)	Owen Sound (OHL)	68	32	43	75	85
Oliver Okuliar	26	6-2	190	Left	Trencin, Svk.	Trade: Fla 6/13/26	Skelleftea (SHL)	46	15	14	29	38
Nicholas Robertson	25	5-9	178	Left	Pasadena, Calif.	Trade: Tor 7/1/26	Toronto	78	16	16	32	10
Carter Sanderson	19	6-1	196	Left	Lincoln, Neb.	169th overall (2025)	Muskegon (USHL)	54	17	17	34	88
Elmer Soderblom	25	6-8	246	Left	Gothenburg, Swe.	Trade: Det 3/6/26	Detroit/Pittsburgh	59	7	6	13	23

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Justin Brazeau	28	6-6	227	Right	New Liskeard, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Pittsburgh	64	17	17	34	14
Jordan Charron	19	6-1	188	Right	Hamilton, Ont.	154th overall (2025)	Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)	66	25	22	47	68
Egor Chinakhov	25	6-1	201	Left	Omsk, Rus.	Trade: Pit 12/29/25	Columbus/Pittsburgh	72	21	21	42	10
Melvin Fernstrom	20	6-1	185	Right	Balsta, Swe.	Trade: Van 1/31/25	Orebro (SHL)	36	3	1	4	6
Avery Hayes	23	5-10	184	Right	Westland, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 3/13/25	Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (AHL)	42	24	15	39	48
Travis Hayes	19	5-11	175	Right	Westland, Mich.	105th overall (2025)	Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)	63	16	24	40	52
Mikhail Ilyin	21	6-3	191	Left	Cherepovets, Rus.	142nd overall (2023)	Cherepovets (KHL)	68	14	30	44	18
Cruz Lucius	22	6-0	178	Right	Lawrence, Kan.	Trade: Car 3/7/24	Arizona State (NCHC)	36	15	31	46	16
Rutger McGroarty	22	6-1	203	Left	Lincoln, Neb.	Trade: WPG 8/22/24	Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (AHL)	30	10	24	34	9
Rickard Rakell	33	6-1	191	Right	Sundbyberg, Swe.	Trade: Ana 3/21/22	Pittsburgh	60	24	24	48	8
Liam Ruck	18	6-0	177	Right	Osoyoos, B.C.	22nd overall (2026)	Medicine Hat (WHL)	68	45	59	104	36
Bryan Rust	34	5-11	198	Right	Pontiac, Mich.	80th overall (2010)	Pittsburgh	72	29	36	65	26
Bill Zonnon	19	6-2	185	Left	Montreal, Que.	22nd overall (2025)	Blainville-Boisbriand (QMJHL)	35	14	32	46	6

ST. LOUIS BLUES

2025-26 NUMBERS

RECORD
37-33-12 (.524)

OVERTIME
3-8

SHOOTOUT
1-4

OVERALL
22nd

OFFENSE
2.80 GPG (24th)

DEFENSE
3.10 GAA (20th)

POWER PLAY
17.6% (26th)

PENALTY KILL
76.7% (25th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.47 (25th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.54 (10th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
R. Thomas (19:01)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
P. Broberg (23:21)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Jim Montgomery

GM
Alexander Steen

CAPTAIN
Vacant

ARENA
Enterprise Center

CAPACITY
18,096

AHL AFFILIATE
Springfield Thunderbirds

ECHL AFFILIATE
Worcester Railers

ROBERT THOMAS

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BY LOU KORAC

IT'S THE DAWN OF a new era for the St. Louis Blues, who enter the 2026-27 season with a leadership change. Alexander Steen, who spent over a decade in St. Louis when he was playing, officially took over as GM for Doug Armstrong. Armstrong, who had been GM since 2010, is relinquishing the role but will stay on as president of hockey operations.

St. Louis was more active through the trade route than free agency, acquiring left winger Connor McMichael, prospect Milton Gastrin and a 2026 first-round pick from the Washington Capitals for Jordan Kyrou. The Blues also traded two 2026 first-round picks (15th and 29th overall) to Anaheim for center Mason McTavish and sent two 2026 third-round picks to Toronto for defenseman Brandon Carlo. The Blues did add some grit and toughness at the start of free agency, though, by signing left winger Ross Johnston to a three-year, $6-million contract.

OFFENSE

The loss of Kyrou, who has had three seasons of 30-plus goals, will be felt. But a top line of Robert Thomas (64 points in 64 games), Dylan Holloway (51 points in 59 games) and Jimmy Snuggerud (51 points in 70 games) is a good lead trio. And if McTavish and McMichael can find their form from two years ago, when they had 48 goals combined, St. Louis will be dangerous. Jake Neighbours needs to bounce back after a down year, while Dalibor Dvorsky and Pavel Buchnevich round out what should be

SERGEI BELSKI-IMAGN IMAGES

PHILIP BRODERG

a more balanced forward group. The team also re-signed Jonatan Berggren to a one-year, $2-million pact to feature in a third-line role.

DEFENSE

By adding Carlo and his 692 games of NHL experience to a group that includes Colton Parayko, Cam Fowler and Philip Broberg, the Blues filled a void on their blueline as far as experience is concerned. St. Louis will also blend in Logan Mailloux, Theo Lindstein and, perhaps, Adam Jiricek, who was selected in the first round back in 2024. Tyler Tucker adds needed physicality to a group that features a mix of puck-moving and shutdown defenders. Rounding out the corps are Calle Rosen and Michael Buchinger, who, when needed, will bring an ability to transition the puck up the ice.

GOALTENDING

There may have been a changing of the guard when Joel Hofer, who played in a career-high 46 games last season, supplanted Stanley Cup-winning goalie Jordan Binnington, who is entering the final year of a six-year, $36-million contract. From Feb. 26 onward, Hofer was 12-2-2 with a 2.04 goals-against average and a .933 save percentage. His 12 wins over that span tied for the league lead. The Blues feel like they're in good hands with a 1-2 punch between the pipes.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Although the Blues ranked third in the league on the penalty kill (84.8 percent) after the Olympic break, their special-team units held them back last season, finishing 26th on the power play (17.6 percent) and 25th on the PK (76.7 percent). If St. Louis wants to get back into the playoff picture, it will need Thomas, Holloway, Snuggerud, Buchnevich, Neighbours and Dvorsky to step up. That said, the additions of McTavish and McMichael will help.

INTANGIBLES

After trading Brayden Schenn to the Islanders and Justin Faulk to the Red Wings at the trade deadline in March, the Blues will now turn to a new leadership group that includes Thomas, Parayko, Neighbours, Binnington, Broberg and Fowler. St. Louis also added new assistants Greg Cronin and Vinny Prospal to the coaching mix. Cronin will work with the D-corps and oversee the penalty kill, while Prospal is in charge of the forward group and the power play. They replace Mike Weber and Claude Julien.

The Hockey News CUP ODDS

58/1

ROOKIES

Jiricek will get an extended look in training camp, but after he finished last season in AHL Springfield, the Blues won't rush him. Right winger Justin Carbonneau, a 2025 first-rounder, will also get a look but is a long shot to make the roster. He will likely start the year in the AHL.

X-FACTOR

When Holloway returned to the lineup, the Blues started playing better hockey. If the 25-year-old, who signed a five-year, $38.75-million extension on May 1, can produce as he did during the final 25 games of the season – when he scored 14 goals and 34 points – the Blues will be more than relevant.

THE BRASS

Owner and chairman Tom Stillman was hesitant when Armstrong suggested stepping down as GM, but he is fully on board with Steen, who was mentored by Armstrong over the past two seasons to ensure he was ready. The Blues have struggled out of the gate the past two years, so coach Jim Montgomery said his sole focus heading into 2026-27 is getting his squad off to a fast start.

DEPTH CHART | 2026-27

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Dylan Holloway	1. Robert Thomas	1. Jimmy Snuggerud
2. Connor McMichael	2. Mason McTavish	2. Pavel Buchnevich
3. Jake Neighbours	3. Dalibor Dvorsky	3. Jonatan Berggren
4. Ross Johnston	4. Pius Suter	4. Alexey Toropchenko
5. Dillon Dube	5. Oskar Sundqvist	5. Nathan Walker

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Philip Broberg	6. Brandon Carlo	1. Joel Hofer
2. Colton Parayko	7. Tyler Tucker	2. Jordan Binnington
3. Cam Fowler	8. Adam Jiricek	3. Georgii Romanov
4. Logan Mailloux	9. Calle Rosen	
5. Theo Lindstein	10. Michael Buchinger	

■ INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Jordan Kyrou, RW; Matthew Kessel, D; Justin Holl, D

DAN HAMILTON-IMAGN IMAGES

ADAM JIRICEK

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Adam Jiricek
Pos D **Age** 20
2025-26 Brantford (OHL)
Top WJC defender packed on 20 pounds ahead of last season and had outstanding year in OHL.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

2. Tynan Lawrence
Pos C **Age** 18
2025-26 Boston University (HE)
Offense dipped after move to NCAA, but bigger, stronger opposition will aid in development.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

3. Justin Carbonneau
Pos RW **Age** 19
2025-26 Blain.-Bois. (QMJHL)
He has great understanding of when to arrive in space. A pure shooter with good instincts.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

4. Maddox Dagenais
Pos C **Age** 18
2025-26 Quebec (QMJHL)
Power-forward profile, but he needs to work on consistency. Was named QMJHL's top pro prospect.
Expected NHL Arrival '30-31

5. Otto Stenberg
Pos C **Age** 21
2025-26 Springfield (AHL)
Two-way pivot knows being trusted in the D-zone opens up opportunities at the other end.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

6. Theo Lindstein
Pos D **Age** 21
2025-26 Springfield (AHL)
Learning the finer details in the AHL. Adjusting to small-ice physicality will be important.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

7. Colin Ralph
Pos D **Age** 20
2025-26 Michigan State (Big Ten)
Regular in AHL lineup after departing NCAA. He projects as bottom-four shutdown blueliner.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

8. Milton Gastrin
Pos C **Age** 19
2025-26 MoDo (Swe.2)
Sent to St. Louis in Jordan Kyrou swap with Caps. Two-way center with well-rounded game.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

9. Marcus Gidlof
Pos G **Age** 21
2025-26 Leksand (SHL)
Casts shadow at 6-foot-6. Was No. 1 in Leksand but backed up in SHL's relegation round.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

10. Dmitri Buchelnikov
Pos LW **Age** 23
2025-26 CSKA Moscow (KHL)
Shoulder surgery put him on the shelf, but slippery winger showed well in shortened season.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

POINTS-O-METER

2026-27 PROJECTIONS

FORWARDS **DEFENSEMEN**

100

80 — 80 Thomas

75 Holloway

67 Snuggerud

60

57 McMichael
55 McTavish

52 Buchnevich

47 Neighbours

40 — 40 Dvorsky

Mailloux 35
34 Suter Broberg 34

Fowler 30

24 Stenberg Parayko 24

22 Berggren

20 — 20 Toropchenko

Lindstein 16

15 Sundqvist

11 Johnston
10 Walker Tucker 10
Carlo 9

7 Finley

0

SCHEDULE

Fri, Oct 2	@ Dallas	9:00 PM
Sat, Oct 3	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Tue, Oct 6	@ Chicago	8:00 PM
Thu, Oct 8	vs San Jose	8:00 PM
Sat, Oct 10	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 13	@ Ottawa	7:30 PM
Thu, Oct 15	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Sat, Oct 17	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Tue, Oct 20	vs Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Thu, Oct 22	vs Vegas	8:00 PM
Sat, Oct 24	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 27	vs Montreal	8:00 PM
Thu, Oct 29	vs Boston	8:00 PM
Sat, Oct 31	@ Detroit	1:00 PM
Tue, Nov 3	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 5	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 7	@ Nashville	1:30 PM
Tue, Nov 10	vs Detroit	8:00 PM
Thu, Nov 12	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Sat, Nov 14	vs Florida	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 17	vs Anaheim	8:00 PM
Thu, Nov 19	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 21	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sun, Nov 22	vs Edmonton	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 25	@ NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 27	vs Dallas	2:00 PM
Sat, Nov 28	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Wed, Dec 2	vs Pittsburgh	8:00 PM
Fri, Dec 4	vs Chicago	8:00 PM
Sun, Dec 6	vs Nashville	5:00 PM
Tue, Dec 8	vs Colorado	8:00 PM
Thu, Dec 10	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Sat, Dec 12	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Sun, Dec 13	vs Tampa Bay	8:00 PM
Tue, Dec 15	vs Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Thu, Dec 17	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 19	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 21	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 22	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 27	vs NY Rangers	5:00 PM
Tue, Dec 29	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Thu, Dec 31	@ Vegas	3:00 PM
Sat, Jan 2	@ Minnesota	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 3	vs Calgary	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 5	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Fri, Jan 8	vs Ottawa	8:00 PM
Wed, Jan 13	@ Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Thu, Jan 14	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sat, Jan 16	vs Minnesota	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 18	@ Toronto	7:30 PM
Thu, Jan 21	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 23	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 26	vs Chicago	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 28	vs Colorado	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 30	vs Vancouver	3:30 PM
Tue, Feb 9	vs Los Angeles	8:00 PM
Fri, Feb 12	@ Edmonton	8:00 PM
Sat, Feb 13	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Mon, Feb 15	vs Philadelphia	8:00 PM
Wed, Feb 17	@ Chicago	7:30 PM
Fri, Feb 19	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Sun, Feb 21	vs Utah	6:00 PM
Thu, Feb 25	vs Vancouver	8:00 PM
Sat, Feb 27	vs Minnesota	4:00 PM
Sun, Feb 28	vs Dallas	9:00 PM
Thu, Mar 4	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 7	@ Philadelphia	1:00 PM
Tue, Mar 9	vs Nashville	8:00 PM
Thu, Mar 11	vs San Jose	8:00 PM
Sat, Mar 13	vs Anaheim	6:30 PM
Mon, Mar 15	@ Seattle	9:40 PM
Thu, Mar 18	@ Edmonton	9:00 PM
Sat, Mar 20	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Sun, Mar 21	@ Calgary	8:00 PM
Tue, Mar 23	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Thu, Mar 25	vs NY Islanders	8:00 PM
Sat, Mar 27	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 28	vs Buffalo	9:00 PM
Thu, Apr 1	vs Calgary	8:00 PM
Sat, Apr 3	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Sun, Apr 4	@ San Jose	9:30 PM
Tue, Apr 6	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Thu, Apr 8	vs Seattle	8:00 PM

PHOTO BY BRANTFORD BULLDOGS

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

ST. LOUIS BLUES

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Jordan Binnington	33	6-2	172	Left	Richmond Hill, Ont.	88th overall (2011)	St. Louis	41	13-20-7	3.33	.873
Will Cranley	24	6-4	185	Left	Peterborough, Ont.	163rd overall (2020)	Florida (ECHL)	18	14-3-1	2.17	.915
Marcus Gidlof	21	6-6	212	Left	Falun, Swe.	Trade: NYI 3/6/26	Leksand (SHL)	26	10-16-0	2.96	.892
Love Harenstam	19	6-1	196	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	179th overall (2025)	Sodertalje (Swe.2)	32	14-18-0	1.81	.920
Joel Hofer	26	6-5	179	Left	Winnipeg, Man.	107th overall (2018)	St. Louis	46	24-13-5	2.61	.910
Vladimir Proskurin	18	6-0	158	Left	Moscow, Rus.	123rd overall (2026)	Mytishchi Jr. (Rus.)	41	14-21-1	2.97	.921
Georgii Romanov	26	6-5	207	Left	Yekaterinburg, Rus.	Free Agent: signed 10/8/25	Springfield (AHL)	28	9-12-4	3.29	.896

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Nicholas Bogas	18	6-0	183	Left	Bloomfield Hills, Mich.	139th overall (2026)	USA U18 (NTDP)	37	2	2	4	32
Philip Broberg	25	6-4	212	Left	Orebro, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 8/13/24	St. Louis	81	6	28	34	16
Michael Buchinger	22	5-11	178	Left	Markham, Ont.	88th overall (2022)	Springfield (AHL)	58	6	5	11	32
Quinton Burns	21	6-1	180	Left	Smith Falls, Ont.	74th overall (2023)	Springfield (AHL)	31	0	5	5	92
Brandon Carlo	29	6-5	220	Right	Colorado Springs, Colo.	Trade: Tor 6/27/26	Toronto	55	0	7	7	37
Lukas Fischer	20	6-3	173	Left	Pontiac, Mich.	56th overall (2024)	Sarnia/Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)	65	8	36	44	88
Cam Fowler	34	6-2	210	Left	Windsor, Ont.	Trade: Ana 12/14/24	St. Louis	82	4	26	30	14
Marc-Andre Gaudet	22	6-3	180	Left	Moncton, N.B.	152nd overall (2022)	Springfield (AHL)	53	5	15	20	12
Adam Jiricek	20	6-3	178	Right	Klatovy, Cze.	16th overall (2024)	Brantford (OHL)	55	19	40	59	33
Arseni Koromyslov	22	6-3	180	Left	Zelenograd, Rus.	120th overall (2022)	Chelyabinsk (KHL)	61	1	16	17	40
Torey Krug	35	5-9	194	Left	Livonia, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 10/9/20	St. Louis			DNP		
Theo Lindstein	21	6-1	180	Left	Gavle, Swe.	29th overall (2023)	Springfield (AHL)	59	6	8	14	18
Leo Loof	24	6-2	176	Left	Karlstad, Swe.	88th overall (2020)	Springfield (AHL)	47	2	4	6	29
Logan Mailloux	23	6-3	213	Right	Belle River, Ont.	Trade: Mtl 7/1/25	St. Louis	67	5	8	13	48
Matthew Mayich	21	6-2	187	Left	Hamilton, Ont.	170th overall (2023)	Clarkson (ECAC)	34	7	8	15	28
William McIsaac	20	6-3	192	Right	Vancouver, B.C.	145th overall (2024)	Spokane (WHL)	66	8	26	34	45
Landon Nycz	18	6-2	201	Left	Brownstown, Mich.	107th overall (2026)	UMass (HE)	35	1	2	3	2
Colton Parayko	33	6-6	228	Right	St. Albert, Alta.	86th overall (2012)	St. Louis	77	4	14	18	23
Colin Ralph	20	6-4	216	Left	Maple Grove, Minn.	48th overall (2024)	Michigan State (Big Ten)	37	1	10	11	29
Calle Rosen	32	6-1	188	Left	Vaxjo, Swe.	Trade: Wsh 11/3/25	Hershey/Springfield (AHL)	70	9	29	38	26
Luke Schairer	18	6-3	195	Right	Charlotte, N.C.	75th overall (2026)	USA U18 (NTDP)	62	1	21	22	71
Tyler Tucker	26	6-1	204	Left	Thunder Bay, Ont.	200th overall (2018)	St. Louis	69	3	14	17	81

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Mikhail Abramov	25	5-11	170	Left	Moscow, Rus.	Trade: Tor 2/17/23	Nizhny Novgorod/Novosibirsk (KHL)	44	13	10	23	10
Maddox Dagenais	18	6-4	196	Left	Blainville, Que.	16th overall (2026)	Quebec (QMJHL)	62	30	32	62	31
Zach Dean	23	6-0	176	Left	Grande Prairie, Alta.	Trade: Veg 2/26/23	Springfield (AHL)	36	4	10	14	28
Antoine Dorion	20	6-1	190	Right	Orleans, Ont.	209th overall (2024)	Quebec (QMJHL)	41	9	14	23	25
Dillon Dube	28	5-11	185	Left	Golden, B.C.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Springfield (AHL)	46	20	17	37	10
Dalibor Dvorsky	21	6-1	201	Left	Zvolen, Svk.	10th overall (2023)	St. Louis	71	12	9	21	26
Jack Finley	24	6-6	220	Right	St. Louis, Mo.	Waivers: TB 2/7/26	Tampa Bay/St. Louis	44	2	3	5	38
Colin Fitzgerald	18	6-3	211	Right	Peterborough, Ont.	203rd overall (2026)	Peterborough/Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)	63	15	18	33	64
Milton Gastrin	19	6-1	185	Left	Ornskoldsvik, Swe.	Trade: Wsh 6/23/26	MoDo (Swe.2)	39	10	14	24	4
Dylan Holloway	25	6-1	206	Left	Calgary, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 8/13/24	St. Louis	59	22	29	51	20
Adam Jecho	20	6-5	197	Right	Zlin, Cze.	95th overall (2024)	Edmonton (WHL)	47	10	26	36	20
Aleksanteri Kaskimaki	22	5-11	181	Left	Espoo, Fin.	73rd overall (2022)	Springfield (AHL)	64	20	24	44	10
Matvei Korotky	20	6-2	198	Right	Krasnoyarsk, Rus.	211th overall (2024)	St. Petersburg (KHL)	43	14	13	27	8
Tynan Lawrence	18	6-1	185	Left	Fredericton, N.B.	11th overall (2026)	Boston University (HE)	18	2	5	7	2
Connor McMichael	25	6-0	180	Left	Ajax, Ont.	Trade: Wsh 6/23/26	Washington	78	14	32	46	30
Mason McTavish	23	6-1	219	Left	Zurich, Sui.	Trade: Ana 6/26/26	Anaheim	75	17	24	41	42
Tomas Mrsic	20	5-11	170	Left	Richmond, B.C.	113th overall (2024)	Colorado College (NCHC)	36	5	5	10	18
Dylan Peterson	24	6-4	192	Right	Roseville, Calif.	86th overall (2020)	Springfield (AHL)	57	12	12	24	85
Jakub Stancl	21	6-3	201	Left	Prague, Cze.	106th overall (2023)	Springfield (AHL)	60	9	10	19	14
Otto Stenberg	21	5-11	180	Left	Stenungsund, Swe.	25th overall (2023)	Springfield (AHL)	36	4	13	17	6
Oskar Sundqvist	32	6-3	220	Right	Boden, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 7/12/23	St. Louis	52	5	12	17	26
Pius Suter	30	5-11	179	Left	Zurich, Sui.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/25	St. Louis	64	13	16	29	20
Robert Thomas	27	6-0	207	Right	Aurora, Ont.	20th overall (2017)	St. Louis	64	25	39	64	24

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Dmitri Buchelnikov	23	5-10	163	Right	Nizhny Tagil, Rus.	Trade: Det 3/6/26	CSKA Moscow (KHL)	44	14	11	25	10
Pavel Buchnevich	31	6-1	196	Left	Cherepovets, Rus.	Trade: NYR 7/23/21	St. Louis	81	20	28	48	26
Ross Johnston	32	6-5	232	Left	Charlottetown, P.E.I.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Anaheim	62	3	11	14	107
Ondrej Kos	20	6-2	167	Left	Kurim, Cze.	81st overall (2024)	Ilves (Liiga)	4	1	1	2	0
Jake Neighbours	24	6-0	201	Left	Calgary, Alta.	26th overall (2020)	St. Louis	69	15	21	36	43
Juraj Pekarcik	21	6-1	183	Left	Trstena, Svk.	76th overall (2023)	Springfield (AHL)	69	11	24	35	10
Felix Trudeau	24	6-2	190	Left	Terrebonne, Que.	Free Agent: signed 3/23/26	Sacred Heart (AHA)	39	25	23	48	87
Nathan Walker	32	5-9	187	Left	Cardiff, Gbr.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/19	St. Louis	46	4	7	11	28

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Jonatan Berggren	26	5-11	197	Left	Uppsala, Swe.	Waivers: Det 12/16/25	Detroit/St. Louis	51	8	14	22	12
Justin Carbonneau	19	6-1	191	Right	Levis, Que.	19th overall (2025)	Blainville-Boisbriand (QMJHL)	60	51	29	80	64
Mikhail Fyodorov	19	5-11	152	Left	Magnitogorsk, Rus.	147th overall (2025)	Magnitogorsk (KHL)	52	7	6	13	35
Simon Robertsson	23	6-0	190	Left	Pitea, Swe.	71st overall (2021)	Springfield (AHL)	40	2	5	7	21
Jimmy Snuggerud	22	6-1	186	Right	Minneapolis, Minn.	23rd overall (2022)	St. Louis	70	21	30	51	18
Lars Steiner	18	5-10	175	Right	Schiers, Sui.	171st overall (2026)	Rouyn-Noranda (QMJHL)	44	30	25	55	44
Carter Stevens	18	6-2	195	Right	Almonte, Ont.	150th overall (2026)	Guelph (OHL)	53	20	16	36	29
Nikita Susuyev	21	6-0	172	Left	Ussuriysk, Rus.	202nd overall (2023)	Springfield (AHL)	34	1	6	7	12
Alexey Toropchenko	27	6-6	222	Left	Moscow, Rus.	113th overall (2017)	St. Louis	65	4	7	11	28

SAN JOSE SHARKS

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2025-26 NUMBERS

RECORD
39-35-8 (.524)

OVERTIME
10-6

SHOOTOUT
2-2

OVERALL
24th

OFFENSE
3.04 GPG (17th)

DEFENSE
3.54 GAA (30th)

POWER PLAY
21.2% (16th)

PENALTY KILL
76.4% (26th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.41 (29th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.73 (21st)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
M. Celebrini (21:19)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
D. Orlov (21:12)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Ryan Warsofsky

GM
Mike Grier

CAPTAIN
Vacant

ARENA
SAP Center

CAPACITY
17,435

AHL AFFILIATE
San Jose Barracuda

ECHL AFFILIATE
Wichita Thunder

BY CURTIS PASHELKA

THE SHARKS MADE ENOUGH moves and spent enough money this summer to feel like if they don't make the post-season, it'll be a disappointment. Led by Macklin Celebrini, San Jose jumped from 32nd to 24th in the standings last season and missed the playoffs by just four points.

To take the next step, the Sharks tried to address their biggest issue – goals against – with a slew of changes to their defense corps. They parted ways with five blueliners, including Mario Ferraro, the team's longest-tenured player, and brought in Jacob Trouba, Darnell Nurse and Michael Kesselring. The Sharks also signed left winger Mason Marchment, adding some needed size and snarl to their forward group. But the Sharks' youth movement, led by Celebrini, Sam Dickinson, Will Smith, Collin Graf, Michael Misa, Igor Chernyshov, Ivar Stenberg and Zack Ostapchuk, provides the biggest reasons for optimism.

OFFENSE

Celebrini was fourth in NHL scoring last season, with 115 points in 82 games. As Celebrini went, so did the Sharks, as they had a 37-18-5 record when he had a point and went 2-17-3 when he didn't. Even after trading William Eklund, the Sharks hope to have more scoring balance with the additions of Marchment and Stenberg. Those two alone help make the Sharks' forward group as deep as it's been since they last made the playoffs in 2019. Alexander Wennberg is a steady presence in a young cen-

BOB FRID-IMAGN IMAGES

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ter group, while Tyler Toffoli and Kiefer Sherwood are middle-six options. Barclay Goodrow, Ty Dellandrea and Adam Gaudette provide depth.

DEFENSE

The Sharks allowed 3.54 goals per game last season, the third-most in the NHL. That's not all on the defense, but with the Sharks eying improvement, they needed to address the blueline. Wholesale changes were made, with Ferraro, Vincent Desharnais, John Klingberg and Nick Leddy allowed to walk as free agents and Shakir Mukhamadullin being sent to Edmonton as part of the deal that brought Nurse to San Jose. The team believes the added length of Trouba, Nurse and Kesselring will make them harder to play against around their own net and better able to kill plays. Still, Dmitry Orlov will be counted on to eat minutes, Dickinson needs to show growth, and the sixth and seventh defensemen, whoever they are, can't be liabilities.

GOALTENDING

The goaltending tandem of Yaroslav Askarov and Alex Nedeljkovic is back for another year. In his first full-time season as an NHLer, Askarov had an up-and-down year, posting an .884 save percentage in 47 games. Can he start to develop into a true No. 1 this season? The Sharks signed Nedeljkovic to a two-year, $6-million extension in March to provide competition for Askarov, and Eric Comrie was signed as a third goalie to provide additional insurance.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Sharks' power play and penalty kill could both improve, having finished 16th (21.2 percent) and 26th (76.4 percent), respectively. Even after the 'D' additions, the Sharks still lack a true PP quarterback, but Eklund can be replaced on the top unit, and several options are available for the second unit. The PK will have to adapt, though, after losing arguably its two most valuable pieces in Ferraro and Desharnais. But Trouba was Anaheim's top penalty-killer last year, and Nurse played a big role on the Oilers' PK. Top penalty-killing forwards Graf, Goodrow, Dellandrea and Wennberg remain.

INTANGIBLES

The Sharks bid adieu to two of their bigger dressing-room voices in Ferraro and Ryan Reaves, but they feel Trouba and Nurse can help fill that void and stand up for teammates when needed. It would be a surprise if Celebrini weren't named captain, especially after he wore the 'C' for Canada at the World Championship in May. It seems like the 20-year-old is ready.

The Hockey News CUP ODDS 34/1

ROOKIES

The Sharks feel Stenberg is ready to play in the NHL. Although he's not the biggest at 5-foot-11, he possesses exceptional hockey sense and playmaking ability. The Sharks might also need rookies as their sixth and/or seventh defensemen, with Eric Pohlkamp and Luca Cagnoni topping the list.

X-FACTOR

Somewhere in their group of defensemen, the Sharks are going to have to find a shutdown pair to face other teams' top lines consistently. Nurse isn't really suited for that role, and Kesselring lacks experience in that capacity. So that leaves Trouba and Orlov as the best remaining options. Buckle up.

THE BRASS

GM Mike Grier isn't saying he expects the Sharks to make the playoffs, but he does foresee improvement. So, will coach Ryan Warsofsky, who is entering the final year of his deal, be on the hot seat if the Sharks get off to a slow start or underperform? H

DEPTH CHART | 2026-27

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Mason Marchment	1. Macklin Celebrini	1. Will Smith
2. Kiefer Sherwood	2. Alexander Wennberg	2. Tyler Toffoli
3. Ivar Stenberg	3. Michael Misa	3. Collin Graf
4. Igor Chernyshov	4. Zack Ostapchuk	4. Adam Gaudette
5. Barclay Goodrow	5. Ty Dellandrea	5. Brett Leason

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Jacob Trouba	6. Luca Cagnoni	1. Yaroslav Askarov
2. Dmitry Orlov	7. Eric Pohlkamp	2. Alex Nedeljkovic
3. Darnell Nurse	8. Nolan Allan	3. Eric Comrie
4. Michael Kesselring	9. Leo Sahlin Wallenius	
5. Sam Dickinson	10. Mattias Havelid	

■ INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs William Eklund, LW; Mario Ferraro, D; John Klingberg, D; Philipp Kurashev, LW; Vincent Desharnais, D; Shakir Mukhamadullin, D; Nick Leddy, D; Ryan Reaves, RW; Pavol Regenda, RW

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Ivar Stenberg
Pos LW **Age** 19
2025-26 Frolunda (SHL)
Slick puckhandler has top-line scoring potential and doesn't sacrifice defense to score.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

2. Igor Chernyshov
Pos LW **Age** 20
2025-26 San Jose (AHL)
Surprised with rapid adjustment to pro game. He was a middle-six weapon down the stretch.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

3. Keaton Verhoeff
Pos D **Age** 18
2025-26 North Dakota (NCHC)
Skates well for a 6-foot-4 rearguard. He has all the tools to become a sturdy top-four D-man.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

4. Joshua Ravensbergen
Pos G **Age** 19
2025-26 Prince George (WHL)
Won WHL's top-goaltender honor. Reads play well but has athleticism to recover when caught.
Expected NHL Arrival '30-31

5. Quentin Musty
Pos LW **Age** 21
2025-26 San Jose (AHL)
After settling in, he hit stride in AHL and posted 20-goal season. Still a work in progress.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

6. Ryan Lin
Pos D **Age** 18
2025-26 Vancouver (WHL)
Gifted skater floats around the ice and can contribute no matter the task on the back end.
Expected NHL Arrival '30-31

7. Haoxi Wang
Pos D **Age** 19
2025-26 Niagara (OHL)
BU commit is project with raw tools. Was top 'D' at Div. I-B World Championship with China.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

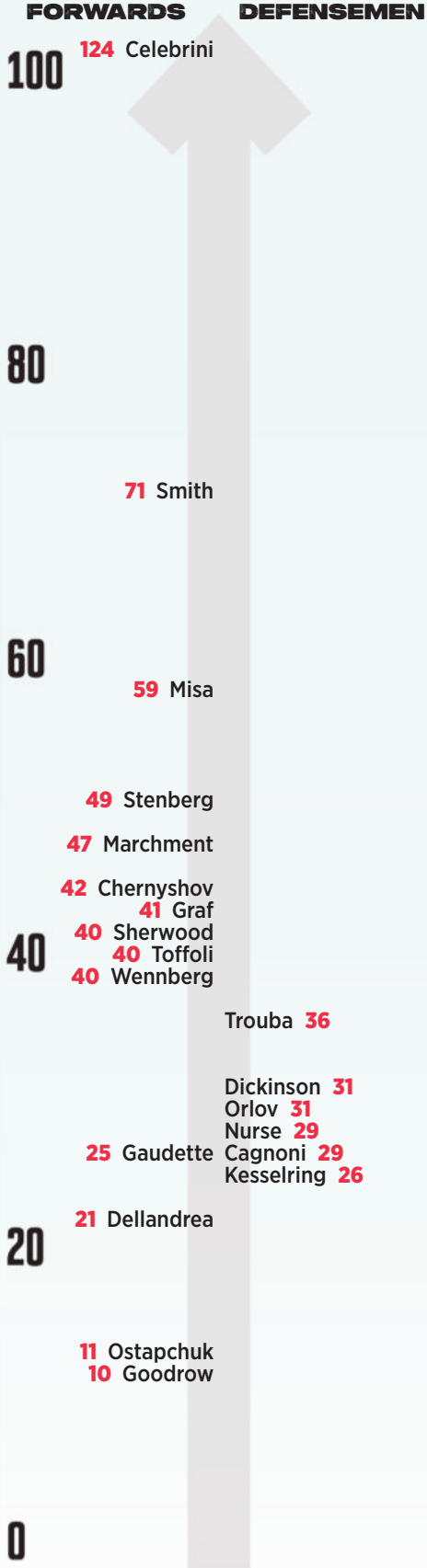
8. Leo Sahlin Wallenius
Pos D **Age** 20
2025-26 Vaxjo (SHL)
Doesn't look to lead rush but will find outlets to get puck moving north. Won gold at WJC.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

9. Filip Bystedt
Pos C **Age** 22
2025-26 San Jose (AHL)
Progression from first to second AHL campaign was spectacular. Slick scorer was named to ASG.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

10. Eric Pohlkamp
Pos D **Age** 22
2025-26 Denver (NCHC)
Do-it-all defender was top-scoring blueliner in college circuit and Hobey Baker finalist.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

POINTS-O-METER

2026-27 PROJECTIONS



SCHEDULE

Thu, Oct 1	vs Florida	10:00 PM
Sat, Oct 3	vs Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Mon, Oct 5	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Thu, Oct 8	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Sat, Oct 10	vs Edmonton	4:00 PM
Tue, Oct 13	vs Boston	11:00 PM
Thu, Oct 15	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Sat, Oct 17	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Mon, Oct 19	@ Toronto	7:30 PM
Tue, Oct 20	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 22	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 24	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 27	vs Buffalo	10:30 PM
Thu, Oct 29	vs Vancouver	10:00 PM
Sat, Oct 31	vs Ottawa	4:00 PM
Mon, Nov 2	vs Calgary	9:00 PM
Wed, Nov 4	@ Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Fri, Nov 6	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Sat, Nov 7	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Mon, Nov 9	vs NY Islanders	10:00 PM
Wed, Nov 11	vs Pittsburgh	10:00 PM
Sat, Nov 14	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Sun, Nov 15	vs Nashville	9:00 PM
Tue, Nov 17	vs Calgary	10:00 PM
Sat, Nov 21	vs Seattle	10:00 PM
Mon, Nov 23	vs Minnesota	10:00 PM
Wed, Nov 25	@ Anaheim	9:30 PM
Fri, Nov 27	vs Vegas	4:00 PM
Sat, Nov 28	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Tue, Dec 1	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 3	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 4	@ NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 6	@ Pittsburgh	3:00 PM
Tue, Dec 8	vs Seattle	10:00 PM
Wed, Dec 9	@ Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Fri, Dec 11	vs Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Mon, Dec 14	vs Vancouver	10:00 PM
Wed, Dec 16	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Sat, Dec 19	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Tue, Dec 22	@ Seattle	9:40 PM
Sat, Dec 26	vs Vegas	10:00 PM
Mon, Dec 28	@ Winnipeg	7:30 PM
Tue, Dec 29	@ Calgary	8:00 PM
Fri, Jan 1	vs Philadelphia	4:00 PM
Sat, Jan 2	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 4	vs New Jersey	10:00 PM
Wed, Jan 6	vs Dallas	10:00 PM
Fri, Jan 8	vs Washington	10:00 PM
Sat, Jan 9	vs NY Rangers	10:00 PM
Wed, Jan 13	@ Edmonton	9:00 PM
Thu, Jan 14	@ Calgary	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 16	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Mon, Jan 18	vs Utah	4:00 PM
Sat, Jan 23	vs Edmonton	10:00 PM
Thu, Jan 28	vs Nashville	10:00 PM
Sat, Jan 30	vs Chicago	4:00 PM
Wed, Feb 10	vs Chicago	10:00 PM
Sat, Feb 13	vs Detroit	4:00 PM
Mon, Feb 15	vs Winnipeg	7:30 PM
Fri, Feb 19	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Sun, Feb 21	@ Florida	6:00 PM
Tue, Feb 23	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 25	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 27	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 1	vs Montreal	10:00 PM
Wed, Mar 3	vs Columbus	10:00 PM
Fri, Mar 5	vs Colorado	10:00 PM
Sat, Mar 6	vs Tampa Bay	10:00 PM
Tue, Mar 9	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Thu, Mar 11	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Sat, Mar 13	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 15	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 16	@ Chicago	8:00 PM
Thu, Mar 18	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Sat, Mar 20	vs Carolina	10:30 PM
Mon, Mar 22	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Wed, Mar 24	vs Anaheim	10:00 PM
Fri, Mar 26	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Mon, Mar 29	vs Colorado	10:00 PM
Wed, Mar 31	@ Edmonton	8:30 PM
Sat, Apr 3	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Sun, Apr 4	vs St. Louis	9:30 PM
Thu, Apr 8	vs Minnesota	9:30 PM
Sat, Apr 10	vs Anaheim	4:00 PM

PHOTO BY FROLUNDA HC

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

SAN JOSE SHARKS

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Yaroslav Askarov	24	6-3	178	Right	Omsk, Rus.	Trade: NSH 8/23/24	San Jose	47	21-20-4	3.63	.884
Eric Comrie	31	6-1	190	Left	Edmonton, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Winnipeg	25	12-11-1	3.13	.890
Kyle Keyser	27	6-2	186	Left	Coral Springs, Fla.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/26	Colorado (AHL)	15	9-4-1	2.09	.922
Christian Kirsch	20	6-4	195	Left	Therwil, Sui.	116th overall (2024)	Kitchener (OHL)	41	27-10-3	2.42	.899
Brady Knowling	18	6-5	202	Left	Toronto, Ont.	127th overall (2026)	USA U18 (NTDP)	15	8-5-1	3.33	.886
Yaroslav Korostelyov	21	6-1	160	Left	St. Petersburg, Rus.	194th overall (2024)	SKA-1946 St. Petersburg Jr. (Rus.)	20	14-5-0	2.22	.917
Alex Nedeljkovic	30	6-0	203	Left	Parma, Ohio	Trade: Pit 7/1/25	San Jose	40	18-14-4	2.87	.896
Joshua Ravensbergen	19	6-5	190	Right	North Vancouver, B.C.	30th overall (2025)	Prince George (WHL)	46	32-13-0	2.51	.919

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Nolan Allan	23	6-2	195	Left	Saskatoon, Sask.	Trade: Chi 1/8/26	Rockford/San Jose (AHL)	64	4	16	20	67
Eli Barnett	23	6-6	219	Right	Ottawa, Ont.	195th overall (2022)	New Brunswick (USports)	28	0	8	8	28
Luca Cagnoni	21	5-9	180	Left	Burnaby, B.C.	123rd overall (2023)	San Jose (AHL)	67	8	35	43	22
Sam Dickinson	20	6-3	205	Left	Toronto, Ont.	11th overall (2024)	San Jose	72	1	13	14	22
Michael Fisher	22	6-2	200	Right	Westborough, Mass.	76th overall (2022)	Cornell (ECAC)	33	1	7	8	14
Libor Hajek	28	6-2	209	Left	Smrcek, Cze.	Free Agent: signed 7/8/26	Pardubice (Cze.)	44	6	7	13	41
Mattias Havelid	22	5-10	170	Right	Taby, Swe.	45th overall (2022)	San Jose (AHL)	44	5	10	15	16
Alexander Karmanov	18	7-1	272	Left	Chisinau, Mda.	201st overall (2026)	North Bay (OHL)	20	0	2	2	29
Michael Kesselring	26	6-4	190	Right	New Hampton, N.H.	Trade: Buf 6/17/26	Buffalo	34	0	2	2	50
Axel Landen	21	6-1	185	Right	Jonkoping, Swe.	130th overall (2023)	TPS (Liiga)	57	2	6	8	34
Ryan Lin	18	5-11	178	Right	Richmond, B.C.	21st overall (2026)	Vancouver (WHL)	53	14	43	57	35
Ilyas Magomedsultanov	19	6-2	176	Left	Livny, Rus.	115th overall (2025)	Loko Yaroslavl Jr. (Rus.)	27	1	10	11	14
Nate Misskey	21	6-3	210	Right	Melfort, Sask.	143rd overall (2024)	UMass-Lowell (HE)	35	4	6	10	14
Darnell Nurse	31	6-4	215	Left	Hamilton, Ont.	Trade: Edm 7/1/26	Edmonton	82	7	17	24	104
Dmitry Orlov	35	5-11	214	Left	Novokuznetsk, Rus.	Free Agent: signed 7/3/25	San Jose	82	3	34	37	48
Eric Pohlkamp	22	5-10	200	Right	Baxter, Minn.	132nd overall (2023)	Denver (NCHC)	43	18	21	39	33
Colton Roberts	20	6-4	200	Right	North Vancouver, B.C.	131st overall (2024)	Colorado College (NCHC)	29	3	8	11	16
Leo Sahlin Wallenius	20	6-0	176	Left	Skovde, Swe.	53rd overall (2024)	Vaxjo (SHL)	32	3	10	13	14
Phillip Sinn	22	6-2	194	Left	Mannheim, Ger.	Free Agent: signed 5/28/26	Munich (Ger.)	35	1	2	3	18
Jacob Trouba	32	6-3	212	Right	Rochester, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Anaheim	81	10	25	35	31
Keaton Verhoeff	18	6-4	208	Right	Fort Saskatchewan, Alta.	9th overall (2026)	North Dakota (NCHC)	36	6	14	20	29
Haoxi Wang	19	6-6	215	Left	Beijing, Chn.	33rd overall (2025)	Oshawa/Niagara (OHL)	57	6	20	26	56

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Alex Barre-Boulet	29	5-10	178	Left	Montmagny, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/26	Colorado (AHL)	70	26	44	70	30
Filip Bystedt	22	6-2	187	Left	Norrkoping, Swe.	27th overall (2022)	San Jose (AHL)	65	22	38	60	22
Macklin Celebrini	20	6-0	190	Left	North Vancouver, B.C.	1st overall (2024)	San Jose	82	45	70	115	44
Logan Couture	37	6-1	206	Left	Guelph, Ont.	9th overall (2007)	San Jose			DNP		
Ty Dellandrea	26	6-2	190	Right	Port Perry, Ont.	Trade: Dal 6/19/24	San Jose	46	2	9	11	22
Andre Gasseau	23	6-4	205	Left	Garden Grove, Calif.	Trade: Bos 6/18/26	Boston College (HE)	23	6	17	23	12
Adam Gaudette	29	6-1	187	Right	Braintree, Mass.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	San Jose	66	17	8	25	20
Barclay Goodrow	33	6-2	209	Left	Toronto, Ont.	Waivers: NYR 6/19/24	San Jose	82	5	7	12	73
Jake Gustafson	18	6-4	186	Right	San Jose, Calif.	174th overall (2026)	Portland (WHL)	68	13	12	25	68
Max Heise	20	6-3	169	Right	Calgary, Alta.	150th overall (2025)	Prince Albert (WHL)	63	29	34	63	31
Jimmy Huntington	27	6-0	200	Left	Laval, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	San Jose (AHL)	71	15	33	48	60
David Klee	21	6-2	185	Left	Castle Rock, Colo.	196th overall (2023)	North Dakota (NCHC)	24	3	3	6	14
Reese Laubach	22	5-11	170	Right	San Jose, Calif.	217th overall (2022)	Penn State (Big Ten)	37	12	16	28	30
Cameron Lund	22	6-2	195	Right	Bridgewater, Mass.	34th overall (2022)	San Jose (AHL)	37	9	16	25	12
Cole McKinney	19	6-0	200	Right	Lake Forest, Ill.	53rd overall (2025)	Michigan (Big Ten)	40	8	12	20	28
Michael Misa	19	6-1	184	Left	Oakville, Ont.	2nd overall (2025)	San Jose	45	9	12	21	10
Teddy Mutryn	19	6-1	210	Right	Norwell, Mass.	95th overall (2025)	Moncton (QMJHL)	54	31	37	68	62
Zack Ostapchuk	23	6-4	212	Left	St. Albert, Alta.	Trade: Ott 3/7/25	San Jose	59	4	3	7	45
Will Smith	21	6-0	181	Right	Boston, Mass.	4th overall (2023)	San Jose	69	24	35	59	16
Alex Wennberg	32	6-2	190	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	San Jose	80	18	37	55	18

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Igor Chernyshov	20	6-2	195	Right	Penza, Rus.	33rd overall (2024)	San Jose (AHL)	41	13	20	33	36
Tye Felhaber	28	5-11	185	Left	Pembroke, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Colorado (AHL)	63	15	16	31	36
Richard Gallant	19	5-8	166	Left	Nashua, N.H.	210th overall (2025)	Harvard (ECAC)	34	8	10	18	21
Mason Marchment	31	6-5	212	Left	Uxbridge, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Seattle/Columbus	68	19	26	45	56
Quentin Musty	21	6-2	200	Left	Hamburg, N.Y.	26th overall (2023)	San Jose (AHL)	61	21	24	45	46
Kiefer Sherwood	31	6-0	194	Right	Columbus, Ohio	Trade: Van 1/19/26	Vancouver/San Jose	72	23	13	36	50
Ivar Stenberg	19	5-11	183	Left	Gothenburg, Swe.	2nd overall (2026)	Frolunda (SHL)	43	11	22	33	6

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Ethan Cardwell	24	5-11	180	Right	Oshawa, Ont.	121st overall (2021)	San Jose (AHL)	24	7	8	15	17
Patrick Giles	26	6-5	218	Right	Chevy Chase, Md.	Trade: Fla 3/5/25	San Jose (AHL)	67	10	14	24	14
Collin Graf	24	6-1	194	Right	Lincoln, Mass.	Free Agent: signed 4/4/24	San Jose	81	21	25	46	12
Martin Kaut	26	6-2	190	Right	Brno, Cze.	Trade: Col 1/25/23	Pardubice (Cze.)	17	5	5	10	0
Brett Leason	27	6-5	220	Right	Calgary, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/26	Hershey (AHL)	56	14	30	44	47
Joey Muldowney	22	5-11	155	Right	Lakeview, N.Y.	172nd overall (2022)	Connecticut (HE)	34	17	12	29	25
Yegor Rimashevskiy	21	6-3	185	Left	Zhlobin, Blr.	203rd overall (2023)	Dynamo Moscow (KHL)	61	10	2	12	6
Tyler Toffoli	34	6-0	203	Right	Scarborough, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	San Jose	79	19	30	49	10
Carson Wetsch	20	6-2	190	Right	North Vancouver, B.C.	82nd overall (2024)	Kelowna (WHL)	65	22	50	72	80

SEATTLE KRAKEN

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2025-26 NUMBERS

RECORD
34-37-11 (.482)

OVERTIME
6-5

SHOOTOUT
2-6

OVERALL
27th

OFFENSE
2.73 GPG (28th)

DEFENSE
3.13 GAA (23rd)

POWER PLAY
19.5% (20th)

PENALTY KILL
72.2% (31st)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.28 (31st)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.80 (23rd)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
C. Stephenson (19:23)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
B. Montour (22:34)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Lane Lambert

GM
Jason Botterill

CAPTAIN
Jordan Eberle

ARENA
Climate Pledge Arena

CAPACITY
17,100

AHL AFFILIATE
Coachella Valley Firebirds

ECHL AFFILIATE
Kansas City Mavericks

BY JARED CLINTON

THERE HAS TO COME a point where the Seattle Kraken begin to feel a bit disrespected. Between Artemi Panarin and Jason Robertson, Seattle has now twice, very notably, seen big-name acquisitions vetoed by all-star talents. Perhaps that's enough for the current Kraken players, collectively, to start playing with a chip on their shoulder.

Even if the Kraken bring a bit of brashness and defiance, however, the question remains whether they have the horses to keep up in the Western Conference playoff race. To begin March, Seattle was three points up in the final wild-card spot before proceeding to lose all but six of its final 23 games. Unfortunately, that's about in line with the Kraken's underlying numbers, too. They were a bottom-five team in possession, shot and expected-goal metrics at five-a-side all season. That's indicative of their lack of both depth and high-end talent.

OFFENSE

Other than Seattle, there are only two teams on which Jordan Eberle's 55 points would have been a team-high mark last season. That speaks to the Kraken's dearth of scoring prowess and the reason why Seattle has gone big-game hunting. Given that Seattle hasn't been able to reel in an offensive gamebreaker, the team needs more scoring out of Matty Beniers. While it's true he profiles as a two-way pivot, his 24-goal, 57-point rookie season in 2022-23 should have been the launching pad for 30-goal, 70-point

BOB FRID-IMAGN IMAGES

production. He hasn't come close. And with the current reliance on career middle-sixers and the hope that youngsters such as Berkly Catton and Oscar Fisker Molgaard step up, Beniers' stalling output is a big problem. A healthy Jared McCann changes the offensive equation slightly, but he alone can't drive the offense. If that support doesn't come from Beniers, it's difficult to envision another source.

DEFENSE

Though Seattle's blueline is lacking a star, the Kraken's D-corps is legitimately admirable. There are more than a handful of clubs that would gladly make a straight swap of top fours with Seattle, which has both attacking impetus from Brandon Montour and Vince Dunn and defensive reliability from Adam Larsson and Ryan Lindgren. That's not to mention Ryker Evans, who floats on the top-four periphery and still has plenty of untapped potential. If Seattle is going to get better up front, however, it may come at the expense of a key defender.

GOALTENDING

Under any other circumstance, Philipp Grubauer's return to form last season would've been welcome. But that he split time with Joey Daccord says a lot about the instability in Seattle's crease. In the wake of a five-year, $25-million extension, Daccord was supposed to be the no-doubt No. 1, but his numbers slipped for the second consecutive season. As John Madden's famous football axiom goes, "If you have two quarterbacks, you have none." In the case of the Kraken, they desperately need one of their netminders to take the ball.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The offensive issues trickle down to the power play. As ineffective as the Kraken have been with the man advantage, though, the issues on the penalty kill are far worse. Seattle was picked apart shorthanded last season, to the tune of the NHL's second-worst kill rate. The only saving grace is that the Kraken were among the NHL's most disciplined teams.

INTANGIBLES

A positive? The combined Kraken roster blocked more shots than either Daccord or Grubauer last season. Coach Lane Lambert is preparing his club to play with plenty of heart. But he also needs to find ways to get the Kraken to play with possession.

The Hockey News CUP ODDS

63/1

ROOKIES

One school of thought says Jake O'Brien should marinate in the AHL. The other suggests it would be worthwhile for the Kraken to give O'Brien the chance to play sheltered minutes and make a case to stick with the team. O'Brien had the best per-game point production of any OHL regular last season.

X-FACTOR

Catton is a great playmaker, but his minutes were extremely limited in his rookie campaign, including only a smattering of power-play opportunities. Put into a position to succeed, he could be a prime breakout candidate and help transform the middle of the lineup.

THE BRASS

Credit where it's due: GM Jason Botterill has taken swings. Sure, Panarin and Robertson waved off moves to Seattle, but that ownership has green-lit those pursuits speaks to a willingness to pay high prices. That level of buy-in from the C-suite matters and shouldn't be taken for granted. While there's no guarantee Botterill will bag an elite-level talent, the odds are much higher given that he has the support of the entire organization.

DEPTH CHART | 2026-27

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Jared McCann	1. Matty Beniers	1. Jordan Eberle
2. Bobby McMann	2. Chandler Stephenson	2. Kaapo Kakko
3. Mackie Samoskevich	3. Shane Wright	3. Frederick Gaudreau
4. Berkly Catton	4. Oscar Fisker Molgaard	4. Ryan Winterton
5. Curtis Douglas	5. Ben Meyers	5. Jani Nyman

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Vince Dunn	6. Josh Mahura	1. Joey Daccord
2. Adam Larsson	7. Cale Fleury	2. Philipp Grubauer
3. Brandon Montour	8. Tyson Jugnauth	3. Nikke Kokko
4. Ryan Lindgren	9. Ty Nelson	
5. Ryker Evans	10. Ville Ottavainen	

■ INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Jaden Schwartz, C; Eeli Tolvanen, RW; Jamie Oleksiak, D

WALTER TYCHNOWICZ-IMAGN IMAGES

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Jake O'Brien
Pos C **Age** 19
2025-26 Brantford (OHL)
Shook off WJC snub and set out to prove doubters wrong. Sharp playmaker led OHL in helpers.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

2. Chase Reid
Pos D **Age** 18
2025-26 Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)
Mobility often associated with offensive dashes, but his skating snuffs out attackers, too.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

3. Jani Nyman
Pos RW **Age** 22
2025-26 Coachella Valley (AHL)
Started in NHL but, amid struggles, was sent to AHL, where he lit lamp 21 times in 39 games.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

4. Oscar Fisker Molgaard
Pos C **Age** 21
2025-26 Coachella Valley (AHL)
Attention to detail earned him place in NHL lineup. Danish Olympian is steadily improving.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

5. Blake Fiddler
Pos D **Age** 19
2025-26 Edmonton (WHL)
Still determining who he'll be at top level. Good news? Broad skill set makes him moldable.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

6. Casey Mutryn
Pos RW **Age** 18
2025-26 USA U18 (NTDP)
Moves well for his 6-foot-3 frame and is beginning to use his physical gifts. High upside.
Expected NHL Arrival '30-31

7. Nikke Kokko
Pos G **Age** 22
2025-26 Coachella Valley (AHL)
Another solid, if unspectacular, AHL campaign. Holes appeared in NHL cameo, but he has promise.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

8. Semyon Vyazovoi
Pos G **Age** 23
2025-26 Ufa (KHL)
Tied for fourth-best SP while stopping more rubber than all but three others. Played in KHL ASG.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

9. Jagger Firkus
Pos RW **Age** 22
2025-26 Coachella Valley (AHL)
If he continues on current growth curve, sneaky scorer will be knocking on NHL door soon.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

10. Eduard Sale
Pos LW **Age** 21
2025-26 Coachella Valley (AHL)
Kraken want to see another gear. He's rounding out game, but his scoring flatlined last season.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

POINTS-O-METER

2026-27 PROJECTIONS

FORWARDS **DEFENSEMEN**

100

80

60
60 McCann
55 Beniers
52 Stephenson
48 McMann
46 Wright
46 Eberle
45 Kakko
Dunn 46

40
39 Catton
Montour 38
34 Samoskevich
29 Nyman
28 Gaudreau
Larsson 29

20
Evans 20
14 Winterton
12 Meyers
Lindgren 12
Mahura 6

0

SCHEDULE

Thu, Oct 1	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Sat, Oct 3	@ Edmonton	7:00 PM
Sun, Oct 4	vs Calgary	8:00 PM
Tue, Oct 6	vs Vegas	9:40 PM
Fri, Oct 9	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Sun, Oct 11	@ Washington	5:00 PM
Tue, Oct 13	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 15	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 17	@ Florida	6:00 PM
Tue, Oct 20	vs Detroit	9:40 PM
Thu, Oct 22	vs Utah	9:40 PM
Sat, Oct 24	vs Minnesota	10:00 PM
Wed, Oct 28	vs Toronto	10:00 PM
Fri, Oct 30	@ Calgary	8:00 PM
Wed, Nov 4	vs Calgary	10:00 PM
Sat, Nov 7	vs NY Rangers	5:00 PM
Thu, Nov 12	vs Carolina*	12:00 PM
Sat, Nov 14	@ Carolina*	1:00 PM
Thu, Nov 19	vs Vancouver	9:40 PM
Sat, Nov 21	@ San Jose	10:00 PM
Mon, Nov 23	vs Anaheim	9:40 PM
Wed, Nov 25	vs Chicago	9:40 PM
Fri, Nov 27	@ Edmonton	8:00 PM
Sat, Nov 28	vs Edmonton	10:00 PM
Tue, Dec 1	vs Dallas	9:40 PM
Thu, Dec 3	vs Dallas	9:40 PM
Fri, Dec 4	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sun, Dec 6	vs Buffalo	8:00 PM
Tue, Dec 8	@ San Jose	10:00 PM
Thu, Dec 10	vs Washington	9:00 PM
Sat, Dec 12	vs Nashville	10:00 PM
Tue, Dec 15	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Thu, Dec 17	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 18	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 20	@ Colorado	8:00 PM
Tue, Dec 22	vs San Jose	9:40 PM
Tue, Dec 29	vs Philadelphia	9:40 PM
Wed, Dec 30	@ Vancouver	9:30 PM
Sat, Jan 2	vs NY Islanders	10:00 PM
Sun, Jan 3	vs Vancouver	8:00 PM
Tue, Jan 5	vs Tampa Bay	9:40 PM
Fri, Jan 8	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Sat, Jan 9	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Tue, Jan 12	vs Florida	9:40 PM
Thu, Jan 14	@ Vancouver	9:00 PM
Sat, Jan 16	vs San Jose	10:00 PM
Mon, Jan 18	vs Columbus	4:00 PM
Tue, Jan 19	@ Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Thu, Jan 21	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 23	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Mon, Jan 25	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 26	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 28	@ Minnesota	9:00 PM
Sun, Jan 31	vs New Jersey	4:00 PM
Wed, Feb 3	vs Montreal	9:40 PM
Sat, Feb 13	vs St. Louis	10:00 PM
Mon, Feb 15	vs Pittsburgh	4:00 PM
Wed, Feb 17	vs Ottawa	9:40 PM
Fri, Feb 19	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Sat, Feb 20	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Mon, Feb 22	vs Boston	9:40 PM
Wed, Feb 24	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sat, Feb 27	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 1	@ Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Wed, Mar 3	@ Toronto	6:30 PM
Thu, Mar 4	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 6	@ Ottawa	3:30 PM
Mon, Mar 8	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 11	vs Los Angeles	9:40 PM
Sat, Mar 13	vs Edmonton	10:00 PM
Mon, Mar 15	vs St. Louis	9:40 PM
Wed, Mar 17	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Fri, Mar 19	vs Colorado	10:00 PM
Sun, Mar 21	vs Los Angeles	8:00 PM
Tue, Mar 23	vs Vegas	9:40 PM
Thu, Mar 25	vs Anaheim	9:40 PM
Sat, Mar 27	@ Minnesota	4:00 PM
Sun, Mar 28	@ Chicago	3:00 PM
Tue, Mar 30	vs Utah	9:40 PM
Sat, Apr 3	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Mon, Apr 5	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Tue, Apr 6	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Thu, Apr 8	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Sat, Apr 10	@ Chicago	6:00 PM

*Global Series in Finland

LOGAN TAYLOR/BRANTFORD BULLDOGS

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

SEATTLE KRAKEN

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Joey Daccord	30	6-2	201	Left	Boston, Mass.	Expansion: Ott 7/21/21	Seattle	47	20-20-6	3.03	.897
Philipp Grubauer	34	6-1	188	Left	Rosenheim, Ger.	Free Agent: signed 7/28/21	Seattle	32	13-12-4	2.65	.909
Nikke Kokko	22	6-3	184	Left	Oulu, Fin.	58th overall (2022)	Coachella Valley (AHL)	35	19-10-2	3.13	.901
Victor Ostman	25	6-4	205	Left	Danderyd, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 4/3/24	Coachella Valley (AHL)	36	17-15-3	2.81	.906
Kim Saarinen	20	6-4	169	Left	Hameenlinna, Fin.	88th overall (2024)	HPK (Liiga)	38	12-14-12	2.11	.916
Visa Vedenpaa	21	6-2	170	Left	Oulu, Fin.	168th overall (2023)	Karpat (Liiga)	15	2-11-2	3.50	.867
Semyon Vyazovoi	23	6-2	169	Left	Ufa, Rus.	163rd overall (2021)	Ufa (KHL)	53	27-18-5	2.13	.931

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Maxim Agafonov	19	6-2	198	Right	Moscow, Rus.	134th overall (2025)	Neftekamsk (Rus.2)	39	3	4	7	16
Karl Annborn	19	6-0	188	Right	Orebro, Swe.	205th overall (2025)	Vasteras (Swe.2)	37	5	9	14	8
Alexis Bernier	20	6-1	189	Right	St-Hyacinthe, Que.	73rd overall (2024)	Chicoutimi (QMJHL)	21	4	8	12	22
Lukas Dragicevic	21	6-1	190	Right	Richmond, B.C.	57th overall (2023)	Coachella Valley (AHL)	43	1	10	11	22
Vince Dunn	29	6-0	200	Left	Mississauga, Ont.	Expansion: StL 7/21/21	Seattle	81	11	33	44	54
Ryker Evans	24	6-0	195	Left	Calgary, Alta.	35th overall (2021)	Seattle	67	8	9	17	40
Jakub Fibigr	20	6-0	171	Left	Sternberk, Cze.	202nd overall (2024)	Brampton/Windsor (OHL)	56	10	30	40	14
Blake Fiddler	19	6-4	209	Right	Nashville, Tenn.	36th overall (2025)	Edmonton (WHL)	63	11	25	36	38
Cale Fleury	27	6-1	204	Right	Carlyle, Sask.	Expansion: Mtl 7/21/21	Seattle	23	1	2	3	7
Kaden Hammell	21	6-1	173	Right	Langley, B.C.	148th overall (2023)	Coachella Valley (AHL)	44	6	7	13	30
Hawke Huff	20	6-3	200	Right	Mazama, Wash.	148th overall (2026)	Cedar Rapids (USHL)	61	3	36	39	8
Tyson Jugnauth	22	5-11	155	Left	Toronto, Ont.	100th overall (2022)	Coachella Valley (AHL)	72	9	36	45	44
Finn Kearns	18	6-3	212	Left	Newmarket, Ont.	131st overall (2026)	St. Andrew's (CAHS)	53	17	23	40	163
Adam Larsson	33	6-3	207	Right	Skelleftea, Swe.	Expansion: Edm 7/21/21	Seattle	82	7	18	25	42
Ryan Lindgren	28	6-0	194	Left	Burnsville, Minn.	Trade: NYR 3/1/25	Seattle	76	2	7	9	60
Josh Mahura	28	6-0	193	Left	St. Albert, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/3/24	Seattle	23	1	2	3	16
Brandon Montour	32	6-0	199	Right	Brantford, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Seattle	64	11	21	32	45
Ty Nelson	22	5-9	195	Right	Toronto, Ont.	68th overall (2022)	Coachella Valley (AHL)	63	11	24	35	26
Ville Ottavainen	24	6-5	210	Right	Oulu, Fin.	99th overall (2021)	Coachella Valley (AHL)	53	3	14	17	71
Ola Palme	18	6-1	201	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	166th overall (2026)	Vaxjo Jr. (Swe.)	20	5	9	14	6
Caden Price	21	6-1	185	Left	Saskatoon, Sask.	84th overall (2023)	Coachella Valley (AHL)	42	2	9	11	15
Chase Reid	18	6-3	195	Right	Chesterfield, Mich.	7th overall (2026)	Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)	45	18	30	48	30
Will Reynolds	19	6-3	188	Left	Fredericton, N.B.	68th overall (2025)	Newfoundland (QMJHL)	61	3	22	25	84
Peetro Seppala	26	6-2	192	Left	Kouvola, Fin.	Free Agent: signed 5/7/22	Orebro (SHL)	51	1	9	10	14
Rylan Singh	18	6-0	176	Right	Pickering, Ont.	198th overall (2026)	Guelph (OHL)	52	4	19	23	23

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Jon-Randall Avon	23	6-0	175	Left	Peterborough, Ont.	Trade: Phi 9/4/25	Coachella Valley (AHL)	45	10	14	24	12
Matty Beniers	23	6-2	181	Left	Hingham, Mass.	2nd overall (2021)	Seattle	82	20	30	50	23
Berkly Catton	20	5-11	170	Left	Saskatoon, Sask.	8th overall (2024)	Seattle	66	7	10	17	31
Curtis Douglas	26	6-9	242	Left	Oakville, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Tampa Bay/Vancouver	43	1	3	4	108
Viktor Fedorov	18	5-10	183	Left	Tomsk, Rus.	99th overall (2026)	Nizhny Novgorod (Rus.2)	32	2	6	8	8
Oscar Fisker Molgaard	21	6-0	168	Left	Hjorring, Den.	52nd overall (2023)	Coachella Valley (AHL)	49	10	24	34	12
Zeb Forsfjall	21	5-9	167	Left	Skelleftea, Swe.	180th overall (2023)	Skelleftea (SHL)	49	3	4	7	8
Frederick Gaudreau	33	6-0	184	Right	Bromont, Que.	Trade: Min 6/26/25	Seattle	68	7	17	24	11
David Goyette	22	5-10	172	Left	St-Jerome, Que.	61st overall (2022)	Coachella Valley (AHL)	51	3	7	10	73
Barrett Hall	22	6-1	167	Left	Edina, Minn.	164th overall (2022)	St. Cloud State (NCHC)	36	10	18	28	20
John Hayden	31	6-3	223	Right	Chicago, Ill.	Free Agent: signed 7/14/22	Coachella Valley (AHL)	67	13	11	24	127
Ollie Josephson	20	6-0	185	Left	Victoria, B.C.	105th overall (2024)	North Dakota (NCHC)	38	6	14	20	12
Andrei Loshko	21	6-2	184	Left	Zhlobin, Blr.	116th overall (2023)	Coachella Valley (AHL)	51	5	9	14	16
Ben MacDonald	22	5-11	165	Left	Boston, Mass.	91st overall (2022)	Harvard (ECAC)	23	6	4	10	10
Bobby McMann	30	6-2	215	Left	Wainwright, Alta.	Trade: Tor 3/6/26	Toronto/Seattle	78	29	17	46	42
Ben Meyers	27	5-11	194	Left	Delano, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Seattle	52	7	8	15	16
Julius Miettinen	20	6-3	205	Left	Helsinki, Fin.	40th overall (2024)	Everett (WHL)	52	35	41	76	29
Logan Morrison	24	6-0	180	Right	Guelph, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 4/11/23	Coachella Valley (AHL)	68	29	32	61	42
Jake O'Brien	19	6-2	172	Right	Whitby, Ont.	8th overall (2025)	Brantford (OHL)	53	28	65	93	28
Chandler Stephenson	32	6-0	201	Left	Saskatoon, Sask.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Seattle	80	16	33	49	14
William Tomko	19	6-0	190	Right	Venetia, Pa.	204th overall (2026)	Sioux City (USHL)	59	24	36	60	115
Nathan Villeneuve	20	5-11	199	Left	Ottawa, Ont.	63rd overall (2024)	Sudbury/Windsor (OHL)	51	21	42	63	73
Ryan Winterton	23	6-2	175	Right	Markham, Ont.	67th overall (2021)	Seattle	68	4	14	18	15
Shane Wright	22	6-0	192	Right	Burlington, Ont.	4th overall (2022)	Seattle	74	12	15	27	10

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Clarke Caswell	20	5-11	170	Left	Brandon, Man.	141st overall (2024)	Denver (NCHC)	43	8	26	34	6
Ryden Evers	21	6-4	192	Left	Burnaby, B.C.	Free Agent: signed 3/1/26	Penticton (WHL)	67	35	39	74	12
Justin Janicke	23	5-11	185	Left	Maple Grove, Minn.	195th overall (2021)	Kansas City (ECHL)	56	15	19	34	41
Jared McCann	30	6-1	191	Left	Stratford, Ont.	Expansion: Tor 7/21/21	Seattle	52	20	20	40	11
Carson Rehkopf	21	6-2	193	Left	Barrie, Ont.	50th overall (2023)	Coachella Valley (AHL)	69	13	6	19	24
Lleyton Roed	24	6-0	179	Left	White Bear Lake, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 3/27/24	Coachella Valley (AHL)	65	11	27	38	16
Eduard Sale	21	6-2	174	Left	Brno, Cze.	20th overall (2023)	Coachella Valley (AHL)	58	13	14	27	14

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Jordan Eberle	36	5-11	180	Right	Regina, Sask.	Expansion: NYI 7/21/21	Seattle	80	26	29	55	28
Jagger Firkus	22	5-10	153	Right	Irma, Alta.	35th overall (2022)	Coachella Valley (AHL)	63	21	35	56	18
Kaapo Kakko	25	6-1	215	Left	Turku, Fin.	Trade: NYR 12/18/24	Seattle	65	13	27	40	14
Loke Krantz	19	6-2	192	Right	Enkoping, Swe.	218th overall (2025)	Linkoping (SHL)	30	1	1	2	16
Jacob Melanson	23	6-0	207	Right	Halifax, N.S.	131st overall (2021)	Seattle	36	2	3	5	32
Casey Mutryn	18	6-3	203	Right	Norwell, Mass.	38th overall (2026)	USA U18 (NTDP)	62	18	28	46	89
Jani Nyman	22	6-2	212	Left	Valkeakoski, Fin.	49th overall (2022)	Coachella Valley (AHL)	39	21	12	33	33
Mackie Samoskevich	23	5-11	180	Right	Newtown, Conn.	Trade: Fla 6/21/26	Florida	77	12	20	32	30
Zaccharya Wisdom	22	6-0	175	Right	Toronto, Ont.	212th overall (2023)	Western Michigan (NCHC)	39	17	13	30	21

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING

NIKITA KUCHEROV

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2025-26 NUMBERS

RECORD
50-26-6 (.646)

OVERTIME
6-4

SHOOTOUT
4-2

OVERALL
5th

OFFENSE
3.49 GPG (4th)

DEFENSE
2.79 GAA (3rd)

POWER PLAY
20.7% (17th)

PENALTY KILL
82.6% (3rd)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.87 (6th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.43 (4th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
N. Kucherov (20:20)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
D. Raddysh (22:42)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Jon Cooper

GM
Julien BriseBois

CAPTAIN
Victor Hedman

ARENA
Benchmark International Arena

CAPACITY
19,092

AHL AFFILIATE
Syracuse Crunch

ECHL AFFILIATE
Orlando Solar Bears

BY ERIK ERENDSSON

THE TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING continue to find ways to remain a Stanley Cup-contending team year after year. But after four consecutive first-round exits, questions continue to mount over how long they can remain a top team.

While the Lightning's top players are still producing at an elite level – Nikita Kucherov won his second Hart last season, while Andrei Vasilevskiy took home his second Vezina – most of their difference-makers are in their 30s. As other Atlantic teams are improving with young talent – such as Montreal, which knocked Tampa Bay out of the playoffs last season – the urgency level to produce another championship with the current core of players is rising. Adding 36-year-old defenseman John Carlson and 31-year-old right winger Ilya Mikheyev via free agency doesn't make the Lightning any younger, but they hope it makes them better suited to make another Stanley Cup run.

OFFENSE

Kucherov, who put up his fourth consecutive 100-point season and finished 42 points clear of the next-best Lightning player, drives the offense. Jake Guentzel remains a consistent 40-goal scorer, and Brandon Hagel is a premier two-way left winger. But Brayden Point failed to reach the 20-goal mark for the first time since his rookie year, and Yanni Gourde only registered nine goals as the third-line center. To complement their top players, the Lightning need to find more depth scoring. Seeing Point return to

DAVID KIROUAC-IMAGN IMAGES

ANDREI VASILEVSKIY

DAN HAMILTON-IMAGN IMAGES

a 50-goal form would be a massive boost as well. Losing 22 goals from defenseman Darren Raddysh will be hard to replace, but the addition of Carlson and the emergence of Charle-Edouard D'Astous will help fill that void.

DEFENSE

Tampa's blueline enters the season with question marks. Can Victor Hedman overcome injuries and personal issues? Was Ryan McDonagh's poor season a result of injuries, or is he simply slowing down? Can J.J. Moser continue to raise his level of play after finishing tied for fourth among defensemen with a plus-41 rating? How much will Raddysh be missed? The Lightning brought in Carlson with the expectation he'd be a key contributor, while D'Astous is expected to take on an expanded role in his second season. Emil Lilleberg and Max Crozier provide strong depth behind Erik Cernak.

GOALTENDING

Vasilevskiy remains key to the Lightning's success. The 32-year-old continued his strong play last season, leading the league in wins for the sixth time. As long as the team in front of him plays a responsible game, Vasilevskiy can be counted on to cover up mistakes and give Tampa Bay a chance to win most nights. The Lightning acquired 24-year-old Dennis Hildeby from Toronto to be the new backup in the hopes it will allow Vasilevskiy to take on less of a workload.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Tampa Bay finished third on the penalty kill last season, and adding Mikheyev will only help. Hagel and Anthony Cirelli make up one of the league's top PK duos, allowing only eight PP goals in nearly 120 minutes together. The power play, however, was inconsistent, finishing 17th after being in the top five the previous three years. It will have to be reworked again, with Carlson taking over for Raddysh on the top unit. While everything runs through Kucherov, his creativity has been stunted by the lack of a right-handed shot opposite him.

INTANGIBLES

After being pushed around in the playoffs in 2024-25, the Lightning toughened up last year and wound up leading the league with 45 major penalties. That led to the perception that they tried too hard to make their presence felt. The addition of Jeffrey Viel assures they will continue to send a message that they won't be messed with.

The Hockey News CUP ODDS 19/1

ROOKIES

The possibility of Sam O'Reilly making the roster has fans buzzing. The 20-year-old is coming off his second consecutive Memorial Cup-winning campaign, one in which he also took home three MVP trophies (OHL regular season, playoff and Memorial Cup). O'Reilly brings a mature presence and could make an impact right out of training camp.

X-FACTOR

Hedman's status will be a storyline to follow. Will he be able to return to form after missing a large chunk of the regular season and the entire playoffs? And if he doesn't get back to that level, how will the Lightning deal with a reduced role for their captain?

THE BRASS

GM Julien BriseBois and coach Jon Cooper, both hired by the organization in 2010, have been at the helm together since 2018. Cooper, the Bolts' coach since 2013, won his first Jack Adams Award last year. He has a knack for putting players in positions to succeed. BriseBois has navigated the salary cap while showing a willingness to be bold in order to keep the Lightning in contention.

DEPTH CHART | 2026-27

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Jake Guentzel	1. Brayden Point	1. Nikita Kucherov
2. Brandon Hagel	2. Anthony Cirelli	2. Gage Goncalves
3. Zemgus Girgensons	3. Yanni Gourde	3. Pontus Holmberg
4. Ilya Mikheyev	4. Dominic James	4. Jeffrey Viel
5. Jakob Pelletier	5. Sam O'Reilly	5. Conor Geekie

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Victor Hedman	6. Erik Cernak	1. Andrei Vasilevskiy
2. J.J. Moser	7. Emil Lilleberg	2. Dennis Hildeby
3. John Carlson	8. Max Crozier	3. Jonas Johansson
4. Ryan McDonagh	9. Steven Santini	
5. Charle-Edouard D'Astous	10. Maxim Groshev	

INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Darren Raddysh, D; Nick Paul, C; Oliver Bjorkstrand, RW; Corey Perry, RW; Mitchell Chaffee, RW; Declan Carlile, D

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Conor Geekie
Pos C **Age** 22
2025-26 Syracuse (AHL)
He showed glimpses of his elite scoring during stint with Bolts. He'll be an NHL fixture this season.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

2. Sam O'Reilly
Pos C **Age** 20
2025-26 Kitchener (OHL)
Memorial Cup MVP and OHL's most outstanding player is 200-foot pivot with pro attributes.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

3. Jack Pridham
Pos RW **Age** 20
2025-26 Kitchener (OHL)
Led Memorial Cup in scoring. Heading to Denver will be great for developing full-ice skill set.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

4. Ethan Czata
Pos C **Age** 19
2025-26 Niagara (OHL)
Tenacious center plays on edge and gets under skin of opposition. He's one for the future.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

5. Oleg Kulebiakin
Pos RW **Age** 18
2025-26 Halifax (QMJHL)
Highlight-reel hands and excellent vision. Shoring up defense will determine his ceiling.
Expected NHL Arrival '30-31

6. Benjamin Rautiainen
Pos C **Age** 21
2025-26 Tappara (Liiga)
Broke Saku Koivu's mark for highest point total by U-21 player in Liiga history.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

7. Tomas Kralovic
Pos D **Age** 21
2025-26 Bratislava (Svk.)
Played starring blueline role in Slovakia's top tier. Has scoring touch and a dose of grit.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

8. Jayson Shaugabay
Pos RW **Age** 21
2025-26 Minn.-Duluth (NCHC)
Savvy playmaker whose best asset is his ability to read the game. No slouch defensively, either.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

9. Dylan Duke
Pos LW **Age** 23
2025-26 Syracuse (AHL)
From 20 goals as AHL rookie to 32 as a sophomore. Skating is what separates him from NHL.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

10. Ethan Gauthier
Pos RW **Age** 21
2025-26 Syracuse (AHL)
Serves as conduit through which offense flows. Not a pure finisher, but he keeps plays alive.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

POINTS-O-METER

2026-27 PROJECTIONS

	FORWARDS	DEFENSEMEN
100	131 Kucherov	
	88 Guentzel	
	82 Point	
	81 Hagel	
80		
60	59 Cirelli	Hedman 55
		Carlson 45
40	40 Geekie	
	37 Mikheyev	
	33 James	
	33 Gourde	
	30 Goncalves	McDonagh 30
	27 Pelletier	
		D'Astous 25
		Moser 25
20	20 Holmberg	
	17 Girgensons	Lilleberg 17
		Crozier 16
		Cernak 13
	8 Sabourin	
0		

SCHEDULE

Thu, Oct 1	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 3	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Mon, Oct 5	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 8	vs Minnesota	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 10	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Tue, Oct 13	@ NY Rangers	7:15 PM
Thu, Oct 15	vs Seattle	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 17	vs Vancouver	4:00 PM
Tue, Oct 20	@ Vegas	10:30 PM
Fri, Oct 23	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Sat, Oct 24	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Thu, Oct 29	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 31	@ Nashville	2:00 PM
Tue, Nov 3	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 5	vs Chicago	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 7	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Sun, Nov 8	@ Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 11	@ Buffalo	7:30 PM
Thu, Nov 12	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 14	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 17	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 19	vs Edmonton	7:00 PM
Sun, Nov 22	vs Buffalo	5:00 PM
Wed, Nov 25	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 27	vs Ottawa	3:00 PM
Sat, Nov 28	@ Florida	6:00 PM
Wed, Dec 2	@ Montreal	7:30 PM
Sat, Dec 5	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 7	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 10	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 12	vs Pittsburgh	3:30 PM
Sun, Dec 13	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Tue, Dec 15	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 17	vs Calgary	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 19	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 20	@ Detroit	5:00 PM
Tue, Dec 22	vs St. Louis	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 26	@ Florida	6:00 PM
Mon, Dec 28	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 29	vs Nashville	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 31	vs Montreal	2:00 PM
Sat, Jan 2	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 5	@ Seattle	9:40 PM
Thu, Jan 7	@ Vancouver	9:00 PM
Sat, Jan 9	@ Calgary	3:30 PM
Mon, Jan 11	@ Edmonton	8:30 PM
Thu, Jan 14	vs Vegas	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 16	vs Ottawa	3:30 PM
Mon, Jan 18	@ Boston	1:30 PM
Thu, Jan 21	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 23	@ Detroit	1:00 PM
Tue, Jan 26	vs Los Angeles	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 30	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Tue, Feb 2	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Wed, Feb 3	@ Philadelphia	7:30 PM
Fri, Feb 12	vs Dallas	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 13	vs Colorado	7:00 PM
Tue, Feb 16	vs Florida	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 18	vs Anaheim	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 20	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Tue, Feb 23	vs San Jose	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 25	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Sat, Feb 27	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Sun, Feb 28	vs Utah	7:00 PM
Wed, Mar 3	@ Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Fri, Mar 5	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sat, Mar 6	@ San Jose	10:00 PM
Mon, Mar 8	@ Chicago	8:00 PM
Thu, Mar 11	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 13	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 15	@ Washington	1:00 PM
Wed, Mar 17	@ Toronto	7:30 PM
Thu, Mar 18	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 20	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 23	vs Florida	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 25	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 27	vs NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 30	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 1	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 3	@ Boston	3:00 PM
Mon, Apr 5	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Tue, Apr 6	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 8	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 10	vs Boston	8:00 PM

ERIC PAYNE/SYRACUSE CRUNCH

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Hugo Alnefelt	25	6-3	189	Left	Danderyd, Swe.	71st overall (2019)	HIFK (Liiga)	29	13-10-4	2.66	.878
Caleb Heil	20	6-2	196	Left	Victoria, Minn.	193rd overall (2025)	Madison (USHL)	41	24-13-3	2.34	.905
Dennis Hildeby	25	6-7	224	Left	Jarfalla, Swe.	Trade: Tor 7/1/26	Toronto	20	5-7-4	2.86	.914
Jonas Johansson	31	6-5	218	Left	Gavle, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Tampa Bay	25	11-10-2	3.29	.884
Harrison Meneghin	22	6-3	169	Left	Surrey, B.C.	206th overall (2024)	Orlando (ECHL)	14	4-9-0	3.26	.889
Olivier Rodrigue	26	6-1	158	Left	Chicoutimi, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Rockford (AHL)	10	4-3-1	3.20	.891
Stepan Shurygin	19	6-4	201	Left	Samara, Rus.	186th overall (2026)	Saginaw (OHL)	59	24-27-7	3.79	.888
Mads Sogaard	25	6-7	217	Left	Aalborg, Den.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Belleville (AHL)	27	7-13-4	3.69	.874
Andrei Vasilevskiy	32	6-4	228	Left	Tyumen, Rus.	19th overall (2012)	Tampa Bay	58	39-15-4	2.31	.912

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Everett Baldwin	19	6-0	178	Right	Providence, R.I.	151st overall (2025)	Saint John (QMJHL)	62	15	29	44	46
Michael Callahan	27	6-2	199	Left	Franklin, Mass.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Providence (AHL)	56	2	14	16	27
John Carlson	36	6-3	215	Right	Natick, Mass.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Washington/Anaheim	71	14	46	60	32
Erik Cernak	29	6-4	230	Right	Kosice, Svk.	Trade: LA 2/26/17	Tampa Bay	61	3	8	11	74
Warren Clark	22	6-2	192	Right	Windsor, Ont.	179th overall (2023)	Northern Michigan (CCHA)	33	2	4	6	6
Max Crozier	26	6-3	198	Right	Calgary, Alta.	120th overall (2019)	Tampa Bay	35	1	9	10	40
Charle-Edouard D'Astous	28	6-2	188	Left	Rimouski, Que.	Free Agent: signed 5/5/25	Tampa Bay	70	6	23	29	112
Dyllan Gill	22	6-3	194	Right	Riverview, N.B.	223rd overall (2022)	Orlando (ECHL)	64	3	15	18	25
Jan Golicic	20	6-6	196	Left	Jesenice, Svk.	118th overall (2024)	Gatineau/Blainville-Boisbriand (QMJHL)	57	5	39	44	38
Maxim Groshev	24	6-2	198	Left	Agryz, Rus.	85th overall (2020)	Syracuse (AHL)	58	3	18	21	22
Victor Hedman	35	6-7	245	Left	Ornskoldsvik, Swe.	2nd overall (2009)	Tampa Bay	33	1	16	17	10
Tomas Kralovic	21	6-3	202	Right	Bratislava, Svk.	90th overall (2026)	Bratislava (Svk.)	52	6	25	31	71
Emil Lilleberg	25	6-3	208	Left	Sarpsborg, Nor.	Free Agent: signed 6/5/23	Tampa Bay	50	4	8	12	61
Simon Lundmark	25	6-2	202	Right	Stockholm, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Syracuse (AHL)	54	1	10	11	22
Ryan McDonagh	37	6-2	219	Left	St. Paul, Minn.	Trade: Nsh 5/21/24	Tampa Bay	48	6	15	21	6
J.J. Moser	26	6-2	181	Left	Biel, Sui.	Trade: Uth 6/29/24	Tampa Bay	79	7	22	29	69
Daniil Pylenkov	26	6-1	194	Left	Yegoryevsk, Rus.	196th overall (2021)	Dynamo Moscow (KHL)	64	9	45	54	22
Steven Santini	31	6-3	214	Right	Bronxville, N.Y.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Syracuse (AHL)	33	0	6	6	10
Grant Spada	19	6-4	185	Left	Fort Erie, Ont.	212th overall (2025)	Guelph (OHL)	61	6	15	21	75
Max Vilen	20	6-3	198	Left	Malmo, Swe.	218th overall (2026)	Saint John/Moncton (QMJHL)	54	3	24	27	25

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Nick Abruzzese	27	5-11	183	Left	Slate Hill, N.Y.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Syracuse (AHL)	56	15	36	51	8
Morgan Anderberg	18	5-11	174	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	134th overall (2026)	Vaxjo (SHL)	39	2	1	3	0
Anthony Cirelli	29	6-1	191	Left	Etobicoke, Ont.	72nd overall (2015)	Tampa Bay	71	23	29	52	48
Ethan Czata	19	6-1	175	Left	Brampton, Ont.	56th overall (2025)	Niagara (OHL)	63	25	28	53	79
Aiden Foster	19	6-2	182	Left	Lloydminster, Alta.	127th overall (2025)	Prince George (WHL)	65	14	21	35	113
Conor Geekie	22	6-4	207	Left	Strathclair, Man.	Trade: Uth 6/29/24	Syracuse (AHL)	57	17	42	59	60
Gage Goncalves	25	6-1	184	Left	Mission, B.C.	62nd overall (2020)	Tampa Bay	74	11	22	33	41
Yanni Gourde	34	5-9	174	Left	St-Narcisse, Que.	Trade: Sea 3/5/25	Tampa Bay	82	9	19	28	66
Jansen Harkins	29	6-1	199	Left	Cleveland, Ohio	Free Agent: signed 7/3/26	Anaheim	44	3	5	8	28
Jack Harvey	23	5-9	170	Left	Des Moines, Iowa	193rd overall (2023)	Boston University (HE)	36	13	8	21	6
Ethan Hay	21	6-1	193	Left	Kitchener, Ont.	211th overall (2023)	Miami-Ohio (NCHC)	35	4	12	16	34
Dominic James	24	5-9	148	Left	Plymouth, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 9/20/25	Tampa Bay	43	7	8	15	8
Roman Luttsev	20	6-0	170	Left	Elektrostal, Rus.	206th overall (2025)	Loko Yaroslavl Jr. (Rus.)	16	4	6	10	16
Lucas Mercuri	24	6-3	191	Right	Montreal, Que.	Trade: Car 3/30/25	Syracuse (AHL)	67	14	12	26	132
Sam O'Reilly	20	6-1	178	Right	Toronto, Ont.	Trade: Edm 7/8/25	London/Kitchener (OHL)	56	29	42	71	22
Brayden Point	30	5-11	175	Right	Calgary, Alta.	79th overall (2014)	Tampa Bay	63	18	32	50	14
Benjamin Rautiainen	21	6-0	174	Left	Tampere, Fin.	108th overall (2025)	Tappara (Liiga)	59	25	52	77	20
Milo Roelens	23	6-7	217	Left	Ste-Petronille, Que.	Free Agent: signed 3/1/24	Orlando (ECHL)	39	11	9	20	65
Joona Saarelainen	20	5-9	193	Left	Mikkeli, Fin.	149th overall (2024)	KalPa (Liiga)	51	8	16	24	12
Cooper Soller	18	5-10	172	Right	Los Angeles, Calif.	154th overall (2026)	Sioux Falls (USHL)	62	26	23	49	36
Gabriel Szturc	23	5-11	194	Left	Cesky Tesin, Cze.	Free Agent: signed 3/2/24	Syracuse (AHL)	60	9	10	19	22

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Tristan Allard	24	6-1	198	Left	Ottawa, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Syracuse (AHL)	70	7	17	24	71
Joe Connor	21	5-9	167	Left	Amherst, N.H.	195th overall (2024)	Northeastern (HE)	36	13	14	27	20
Dylan Duke	23	5-10	177	Left	Strongsville, Ohio	126th overall (2021)	Syracuse (AHL)	72	32	27	59	42
Cooper Flinton	23	6-1	202	Left	Auburn, N.H.	211th overall (2021)	Syracuse (AHL)	50	5	1	6	48
Zemgus Girgensons	32	6-3	192	Left	Riga, Lat.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Tampa Bay	74	9	11	20	31
Brandon Hagel	28	6-2	180	Left	Saskatoon, Sask.	Trade: Chi 3/18/22	Tampa Bay	71	36	38	74	58
Jakob Pelletier	25	5-9	170	Left	Quebec, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/25	Syracuse (AHL)	63	28	49	77	19
Noah Steen	22	6-1	187	Left	Oslo, Nor.	199th overall (2024)	Orebro (SHL)	52	12	10	22	18
Klavs Veinbergs	23	6-3	207	Right	Riga, Lat.	224th overall (2022)	Colorado College (NCHC)	36	11	12	23	32
Jeffrey Viel	29	6-2	205	Left	Rimouski, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Boston/Anaheim	45	3	7	10	79

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Hagen Burrows	20	6-2	174	Right	Plymouth, Minn.	128th overall (2024)	Denver (NCHC)	43	6	10	16	18
Ethan Gauthier	21	6-0	182	Right	Scottsdale, Ariz.	37th overall (2023)	Syracuse (AHL)	56	12	15	27	10
Jake Guentzel	31	5-11	178	Left	Omaha, Neb.	Trade: Car 6/29/24	Tampa Bay	81	38	50	88	61
Pontus Holmberg	27	6-0	201	Left	Vasteras, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Tampa Bay	70	11	11	22	31
Nikita Kucherov	33	6-0	180	Left	Maykop, Rus.	58th overall (2011)	Tampa Bay	76	44	86	130	50
Oleg Kulebiakin	18	5-10	178	Left	St. Petersburg, Rus.	52nd overall (2026)	Halifax (QMJHL)	64	29	44	73	30
Connor Kurth	23	5-11	215	Right	Elk River, Minn.	192nd overall (2022)	Orlando/Reading (ECHL)	73	13	12	25	8
Marco Mignosa	21	6-0	158	Right	Toronto, Ont.	215th overall (2025)	Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)	65	35	54	89	33
Ilya Mikheyev	31	6-2	192	Left	Omsk, Rus.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Chicago	77	18	18	36	18
Jack Pridham	20	6-1	176	Right	Stouffville, Ont.	Trade: Chi 6/1/26	Kitchener (OHL)	65	46	44	90	54
Scott Sabourin	34	6-4	207	Right	Orleans, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/13/25	Syracuse (AHL)	24	6	2	8	22
Jayson Shaugabay	21	5-9	166	Right	Roseau, Minn.	115th overall (2023)	Minnesota-Duluth (NCHC)	40	11	32	43	18

TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS

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2025-26 NUMBERS

RECORD
32-36-14 (.476)

OVERTIME
8-10

SHOOTOUT
1-4

OVERALL
28th

OFFENSE
3.07 GPG (16th)

DEFENSE
3.60 GAA (31st)

POWER PLAY
21.3% (15th)

PENALTY KILL
81.2% (8th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.40 (30th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.86 (27th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
A. Matthews (20:48)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
J. McCabe (22:24)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Jim Hiller

GM
John Chayka

CAPTAIN
Auston Matthews

ARENA
Scotiabank Arena

CAPACITY
18,800

AHL AFFILIATE
Toronto Marlies

ECHL AFFILIATE
Cincinnati Cyclones

BY KEVIN MCGRAN

THE CONVERSATION AROUND THE Maple Leafs is vastly different going into this season than it was coming out of 2025-26. At the start of the summer, the buzz around Toronto was entirely negative. The hiring of ex-Coyotes GM John Chayka was panned, as was the return of franchise icon Mats Sundin. There were also rumors that captain Auston Matthews might want out. Then the team won the draft lottery. And all was suddenly right in Leafs Nation.

The Leafs were gifted playmaking phenom Gavin McKenna, a left winger who can drive a line, and replaced coach Craig Berube with Jim Hiller, the ex-Kings bench boss who was an assistant in Toronto under Mike Babcock. And through trades (Darren Raddysh and Nick Paul) and free agency (Sergei Bobrovsky, Jack Roslovic, Colton Sissons and others), Chayka overhauled the roster. The Maple Leafs are committed to making the playoffs in 2026-27, believing last year's miss was a one-off. They're going for it while they still have Matthews and William Nylander.

OFFENSE

The Leafs hope Matthews, freed from his defensive duties, can be more like the 60-goal scorer he twice was in the past. Nylander will always be Nylander, though, no matter who the coach is. Raddysh's bomb of a slapshot adds a new dimension on the blueline. They'll miss Nicholas Robertson's contributions in limited minutes, but the offense will be backed – again – by John Tavares and

JOHN E. SOKOLOWSKI-IMAGN IMAGES

SERGEI BELSKI-IMAGN IMAGES

Matthew Knies, the latter of whom is hoping for a healthy season. McKenna, Roslovic and Easton Cowan will chip in with secondary offense.

DEFENSE

The Leafs' defense is notoriously leaky. Only three teams gave up more than Toronto's 826 high-danger chances against at 5-on-5. Hiller promises to deploy more of a possession-style game, so the ability to make a quick first pass will be paramount. Raddysh and Emil Andrae can do that, as can Troy Stecher. It also suits Morgan Rielly's game better, so perhaps this approach can revive his career. Oliver Ekman-Larsson will need to duplicate a remarkably good 2025-26 season. Jake McCabe and Chris Tanev will be counted on to be the team's shutdown pair, but Tanev's health will always be a question.

GOALTENDING

The Leafs hope they landed the Bobrovsky of old – and not just an old Bobrovsky. He'll be 38 when the season begins and is coming off his worst campaign in more than a decade, so the three-year, $21-million deal is a risk. But he's a two-time Stanley Cup champion and a two-time Vezina Trophy winner. He's also reuniting with Anthony Stolarz – they won the Cup together in 2024. Bobrovsky has been remarkably durable and should give the Leafs a true No. 1 goalie who can play 50 games.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The power play was the team's Achilles heel early in the season and cost assistant Marc Savard his job, but the Leafs rebounded to finish 15th (21.3 percent). They had fewer PP opportunities (197) than any other team, a sign that their 5-on-5 play wasn't aggressive enough. Hiller ran the power play to some success when he was an assistant in Toronto. It's doubtful they'll go with a five-forward unit. With Raddysh, who led all D-men with 10 PP goals last year, the unit should get back into the top 10. The penalty kill wasn't an issue and might even get better with Tanev's shot-blocking ability and improved goaltending.

INTANGIBLES

An inherent weakness in the past was the bottom six. They just didn't do much and often hurt more than they helped. With more salary-cap space, Chayka brought in quality depth pieces in Sissons, Paul, Brandon Duhaime and Teddy Blueger – players who can do some heavy lifting against top lines and kill penalties. That should free up the team's stars to get more offensive-zone starts and work their magic.

The Hockey News CUP ODDS 26/1

ROOKIES

McKenna should be in the running for the Calder. He has as much confidence as he has skill, and he tops it off with an endearing humility. Watch for goalie Artur Akhtyamov to get a few more games this year after running with the top job in the Calder Cup playoffs with the AHL's Toronto Marlies. Ben Danford also has a chance to make an appearance or two.

X-FACTOR

Matthews has to be the team's best player again. He needs to score like he used to and return to his status as an elite offensive threat. He needs to be more about the Hart than the Selke. For that, though, he needs to be healthy, which has been a challenge recently.

THE BRASS

Chayka is big on analytics and making decisions based on data. He's also proven to be decisive, has accepted his past faults and is working to be better in the future. It's early, but he looks like a good fit in Toronto so far.

DEPTH CHART | 2026-27

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Matthew Knies	1. Auston Matthews	1. William Nylander
2. Gavin McKenna	2. John Tavares	2. Jack Roslovic
3. Nick Paul	3. Colton Sissons	3. Easton Cowan
4. Dakota Joshua	4. Teddy Blueger	4. Max Domi +
5. Steven Lorentz	5. Zack MacEwen	5. Brandon Duhaime

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Darren Raddysh	6. Troy Stecher	1. Sergei Bobrovsky
2. Morgan Rielly	7. Emil Andrae	2. Anthony Stolarz
3. Jake McCabe	8. Philippe Myers	3. Artur Akhtyamov
4. Chris Tanev	9. Dakota Mermis	+ INJURED
5. Oliver Ekman-Larsson	10. Ben Danford	■ INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Matias Maccelli, LW; Nicholas Robertson, LW; Joseph Woll, G; Brandon Carlo, D; Calle Jarnkrok, C; Simon Benoit, D; Dennis Hildeby, G

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Gavin McKenna
Pos LW **Age** 18
2025-26 Penn State (Big Ten)
Dynamite second half cemented his position as top pick. He'll slide straight into Leafs' top six.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

2. Ben Danford
Pos D **Age** 20
2025-26 Brantford (OHL)
High-IQ defender went from OHL to AHL post-season regular for Calder Cup-winning Marlies.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

3. Artur Akhtyamov
Pos G **Age** 24
2025-26 Toronto (AHL)
Calder Cup MVP impressed so much that Dennis Hildeby was deemed expendable.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

4. Tinus-Luc Koblar
Pos C **Age** 19
2025-26 Leksand (SHL)
Top Div. I-A WJC forward was then top scorer on Norway's surprising World Championship squad.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

5. Alexander Bilecki
Pos D **Age** 18
2025-26 Kitchener (OHL)
Retrieves pucks, spots a teammate and finds them. Not a solo driver, but he's a useful puck-mover.
Expected NHL Arrival '30-31

6. Miroslav Holinka
Pos C **Age** 20
2025-26 Edmonton (OHL)
Has high-end offense but doesn't sacrifice his own-zone responsibilities to put up points.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

7. Ethan MacKenzie
Pos D **Age** 20
2025-26 Edmonton (WHL)
North Dakota commit is departing WHL after near point-per-game production from back end.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

8. Harry Nansi
Pos RW **Age** 19
2025-26 Owen Sound (OHL)
Needs to fill out his 6-foot-3 frame, but he took big offensive strides in third OHL campaign.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

9. Zach Olsen
Pos RW **Age** 18
2025-26 Saskatoon (WHL)
Speed and willingness to use it to be a menace on forecheck make him energy-line candidate.
Expected NHL Arrival '30-31

10. Mans Gudmundsson
Pos D **Age** 18
2025-26 Farjestad Jr. (Swe.)
Strong on the puck and tough in the corners. Makings of a reliable, low-pairing defender.
Expected NHL Arrival '31-32

POINTS-O-METER

2026-27 PROJECTIONS

FORWARDS **DEFENSEMEN**

100

89 Nylander

80

80 Matthews

78 Knies

63 Tavares

60

Raddysh 58

52 McKenna

47 Cowan

44 Roslovic

Rielly 42

41 Paul

40

Ekman-Larsson 32

28 Domi

27 Sissons

27 Duhaime

26 Joshua

McCabe 23

22 Blueger

20

Andrae 16

Tanev 14

12 Lorentz

Stecher 10

Myers 4

0

SCHEDULE

Tue, Sept 29	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Wed, Sept 30	vs NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Sat, Oct 3	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 6	vs Nashville	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 8	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Sat, Oct 10	@ Colorado	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 13	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Thu, Oct 15	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 17	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Mon, Oct 19	vs San Jose	7:30 PM
Tue, Oct 20	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 22	vs NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 24	@ Edmonton	7:00 PM
Mon, Oct 26	@ Calgary	8:30 PM
Wed, Oct 28	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Sat, Oct 31	@ Vancouver	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 3	vs Utah	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 7	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Sun, Nov 8	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 10	vs Colorado	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 12	vs Minnesota	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 14	vs Edmonton	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 17	@ Chicago	7:30 PM
Thu, Nov 19	vs Los Angeles	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 21	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Mon, Nov 23	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Fri, Nov 27	@ Boston	1:00 PM
Sat, Nov 28	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Mon, Nov 30	vs Philadelphia	7:30 PM
Thu, Dec 3	vs Florida	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 5	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Wed, Dec 9	@ Dallas	7:30 PM
Sat, Dec 12	vs Vegas	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 13	vs Anaheim	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 15	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Thu, Dec 17	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 19	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 21	vs Washington	1:00 PM
Tue, Dec 22	@ Detroit	7:30 PM
Sat, Dec 26	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 29	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Wed, Dec 30	@ Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Sat, Jan 2	@ San Jose	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 4	@ Washington	7:30 PM
Thu, Jan 7	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 9	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 11	vs Winnipeg	7:30 PM
Thu, Jan 14	vs Chicago	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 16	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 18	vs St. Louis	7:30 PM
Wed, Jan 20	@ Ottawa	7:30 PM
Sat, Jan 23	@ St. Louis	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 26	vs Calgary	7:00 PM
Wed, Jan 27	@ Detroit	7:30 PM
Sat, Jan 30	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Mon, Feb 8	vs Columbus	7:30 PM
Wed, Feb 10	vs Boston	7:30 PM
Sat, Feb 13	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Tue, Feb 16	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 18	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Sat, Feb 20	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Tue, Feb 23	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 25	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 27	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 1	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Wed, Mar 3	vs Seattle	6:30 PM
Fri, Mar 5	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 6	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 8	vs Dallas	7:30 PM
Thu, Mar 11	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Sat, Mar 13	vs Vancouver	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 15	vs Florida	7:30 PM
Wed, Mar 17	vs Tampa Bay	7:30 PM
Thu, Mar 18	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 20	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 22	@ Montreal	7:30 PM
Thu, Mar 25	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 27	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 28	vs Washington	6:00 PM
Tue, Mar 30	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 1	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 3	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Mon, Apr 5	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 10	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM

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ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP	
Juuso Ainasto	18	6-4	198	Left	Tuusula, Fin.	85th overall (2026)	Jokerit Jr. (Fin.)	14	6-7-0	3.28	.892	
Artur Akhtyamov	24	6-2	170	Left	Kazan, Rus.	106th overall (2020)	Toronto (AHL)	37	21-12-6	2.88	.904	
Sergei Bobrovsky	38	6-2	180	Left	Novokuznetsk, Rus.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Florida	52	27-23-1	3.07	.877	
Samuel Hlavaj	25	6-4	218	Left	Martin, Svk.	Free Agent: signed 7/3/26	Iowa (AHL)	22	7-11-5	3.28	.887	
Timofei Obvintsev	21	6-4	178	Left	Yekaterinburg, Rus.	157th overall (2024)	Gornyak-UGMK (Rus.2)	6	1-3-0	2.86	.899	
Patriks Plumins	18	6-4	214	Left	Talsi, Lat.	114th overall (2026)	Zemgale (Lat.)	16	n/a	1.50	.927	
Anthony Stolarz	32	6-6	243	Left	Edison, N.J.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Toronto	26	10-10-3	3.28	.893	
DEFENSEMEN	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2025-26**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Emil Andrae	24	5-9	189	Left	Vastervik, Swe.	Trade: Phi 6/16/26	Philadelphia	61	2	11	13	22
Alexander Bilecki	18	6-1	180	Left	Mississauga, Ont.	60th overall (2026)	Kitchener (OHL)	66	9	20	29	43
Vinny Borgesi	22	5-9	174	Right	Philadelphia, Pa.	Free Agent: signed 3/17/26	Northeastern (HE)	36	5	15	20	29
Noah Chadwick	21	6-4	207	Left	Saskatoon, Sask.	185th overall (2023)	Toronto (AHL)	68	5	18	23	38
Ben Danford	20	6-2	195	Right	Belleville, Ont.	31st overall (2024)	Oshawa/Brantford (OHL)	45	3	17	20	13
Oliver Ekman-Larsson	35	6-2	192	Left	Karlskrona, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Toronto	78	8	31	39	70
Yaroslav Fedoseyev	18	6-1	188	Right	Chelyabinsk, Rus.	161st overall (2026)	Chelyabinsk (Rus.2)	25	1	5	6	25
Rylan Fellinger	19	6-3	196	Right	Wawa, Ont.	185th overall (2025)	Flint (OHL)	65	3	13	16	44
Mans Gudmundsson	18	6-2	185	Right	Skovde, Swe.	76th overall (2026)	Farjestad Jr. (Swe.)	35	1	24	25	10
Hayes Hundley	21	6-3	210	Right	Upper Arlington, Ohio	Free Agent: signed 3/27/26	St. Thomas (NCHC)	38	6	6	12	12
Victor Johansson	20	6-1	143	Left	Linkoping, Swe.	120th overall (2024)	Oskarshamn (Swe.2)	22	1	9	10	16
Matt Lahey	20	6-5	203	Left	Victoria, B.C.	200th overall (2024)	Michigan State (Big Ten)	19	0	5	5	4
Ethan MacKenzie	20	6-0	190	Left	Kelowna, B.C.	69th overall (2026)	Edmonton (WHL)	59	22	36	58	42
Jake McCabe	32	6-1	212	Left	Eau Claire, Wis.	Trade: Chi 2/27/23	Toronto	80	5	20	25	64
Cole McWard	25	6-1	192	Right	Fenton, Mo.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/26	Bridgeport (AHL)	63	6	21	27	24
Dakota Mermis	32	6-0	197	Left	Alton, Ill.	Waivers: Uth 1/3/25	Toronto (AHL)	27	1	6	7	36
Philippe Myers	29	6-5	219	Right	Moncton, N.B.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/24	Toronto	39	0	2	2	22
Topi Niemela	24	6-0	179	Right	Oulu, Fin.	64th overall (2020)	Malmo (SHL)	52	4	14	18	14
Darren Raddysh	30	6-1	202	Right	Toronto, Ont.	Trade: TB 6/19/26	Tampa Bay	73	22	48	70	72
Morgan Rielly	32	6-1	225	Left	Vancouver, B.C.	5th overall (2012)	Toronto	78	11	25	36	29
Marshall Rifai	28	6-2	213	Left	Beaconsfield, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Toronto (AHL)	20	0	5	5	30
Blake Smith	21	6-4	211	Left	Oshawa, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 4/10/25	Toronto (AHL)	62	1	8	9	110
Troy Stecher	32	5-10	184	Right	Richmond, B.C.	Waivers: Edm 11/15/25	Edmonton/Toronto	64	3	11	14	20
Chris Tanev	36	6-3	199	Right	Toronto, Ont.	Trade: Dal 6/29/24	Toronto	11	0	2	2	0
William Villeneuve	24	6-2	183	Right	Sherbrooke, Que.	122nd overall (2020)	Toronto (AHL)	61	3	27	30	64
Cade Webber	25	6-7	212	Left	Worcester, Mass.	Trade: Car 3/7/24	Toronto (AHL)	33	0	3	3	18
CENTERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2025-26**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Teddy Blueger	32	6-0	185	Left	Riga, Lat.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Vancouver	35	9	8	17	22
Semyon Der-Arguchintsev	26	6-0	176	Right	Moscow, Rus.	76th overall (2018)	Chelyabinsk/Dynamo Moscow (KHL)	59	6	31	37	10
Max Domi	31	5-10	209	Left	Winnipeg, Man.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/23	Toronto	80	12	24	36	95
Bo Groulx	26	6-2	202	Left	Rouen, Fra.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Toronto (AHL)	59	28	24	52	34
Luke Haymes	23	6-1	192	Left	Ottawa, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 3/25/25	Toronto (AHL)	66	17	16	33	22
Roni Hirvonen	24	5-10	178	Left	Espoo, Fin.	59th overall (2020)	Karpat (Liiga)	57	16	36	52	43
Miroslav Holinka	20	6-2	188	Right	Kromeriz, Cze.	151st overall (2024)	Edmonton (WHL)	59	37	43	80	24
Tyler Hopkins	19	6-1	179	Left	Milton, Ont.	86th overall (2025)	Kingston/Guelph (OHL)	56	25	25	50	28
Dakota Joshua	30	6-3	206	Left	Dearborn, Mich.	Trade: Van 7/17/25	Toronto	55	10	8	18	49
Tinus-Luc Koblar	19	6-4	189	Left	Kranj, Slo.	64th overall (2025)	Leksand (SHL)	47	8	6	14	24
Vinni Lettieri	31	5-10	184	Right	Excelsior, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Toronto (AHL)	55	14	28	42	32
Steven Lorentz	30	6-4	216	Left	Kitchener, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 10/7/24	Toronto	71	7	11	18	16
Zack MacEwen	30	6-4	227	Right	Charlottetown, P.E.I.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	New Jersey	3	0	0	0	0
Hudson Malinoski	22	6-0	175	Left	Saskatoon, Sask.	153rd overall (2023)	Providence (HE)	36	11	4	15	19
Auston Matthews	29	6-3	217	Left	San Ramon, Calif.	1st overall (2016)	Toronto	60	27	26	53	18
Joe Miller	24	5-8	147	Right	Minneapolis, Minn.	180th overall (2020)	Harvard (ECAC)	34	6	6	12	6
Jacob Quillan	24	6-1	204	Left	Dartmouth, N.S.	Free Agent: signed 4/1/24	Toronto (AHL)	40	14	22	36	23
Jack Roslovic	29	6-1	198	Right	Columbus, Ohio	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Edmonton	69	21	15	36	16
Colton Sissons	33	6-1	200	Right	North Vancouver, B.C.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Vegas	66	6	5	11	28
John Tavares	36	6-1	211	Left	Mississauga, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/18	Toronto	82	31	40	71	28
Ryan Tverberg	24	5-11	187	Right	Richmond Hill, Ont.	213th overall (2020)	Toronto (AHL)	63	15	21	36	36
Cooper Williams	18	6-1	164	Left	Calgary, Alta.	158th overall (2026)	Saskatoon (WHL)	66	23	34	57	35
LEFT WINGERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2025-26**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Matthew Knies	23	6-3	227	Left	Phoenix, Ariz.	57th overall (2021)	Toronto	79	23	43	66	29
Sam McCue	20	6-3	196	Left	Sudbury, Ont.	216th overall (2024)	Brantford/Ottawa (OHL)	53	17	15	32	58
Gavin McKenna	18	5-11	170	Left	Whitehorse, Yukon	1st overall (2026)	Penn State (Big Ten)	35	15	36	51	36
Nick Paul	31	6-4	230	Left	Mississauga, Ont.	Trade: TB 7/1/26	Tampa Bay	51	7	8	15	32
Michael Pezzetta	28	6-1	219	Left	Toronto, Ont.	160th overall (2016)	Toronto (AHL)	39	5	6	11	52
Alexander Plesovskikh	20	6-2	174	Right	Tyumen, Rus.	152nd overall (2024)	Spartak Moscow Jr. (Rus.)	53	27	24	51	84
RIGHT WINGERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2025-26**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
William Belle	19	6-3	219	Right	Dongguan, Chn.	137th overall (2025)	Notre Dame (Big Ten)	34	1	3	4	33
Brandon Buhr	24	6-2	205	Right	Burnaby, B.C.	Free Agent: signed 3/18/26	Union (ECAC)	35	19	17	36	10
Easton Cowan	21	6-0	185	Left	Strathroy, Ont.	28th overall (2023)	Toronto	66	11	18	29	45
Brandon Duhaime	29	6-2	200	Left	Coral Springs, Fla.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Washington	82	4	5	9	78
Veeti Miettinen	25	5-9	161	Left	Espoo, Fin.	168th overall (2020)	KooKoo (Liiga)	53	27	14	41	8
Nicholas Moldenhauer	22	5-10	170	Right	Oakville, Ont.	95th overall (2022)	Michigan (Big Ten)	40	15	16	31	16
Harry Nansi	19	6-3	186	Right	Brossard, Que.	153rd overall (2025)	Owen Sound (OHL)	67	13	43	56	29
William Nylander	30	6-0	202	Right	Calgary, Alta.	8th overall (2014)	Toronto	65	30	49	79	16
Zach Olsen	18	6-1	202	Right	Calgary, Alta.	73rd overall (2026)	Saskatoon (WHL)	57	18	16	34	79
Brody Pepoy	18	6-1	173	Right	Troy, Mich.	169th overall (2026)	Saginaw (OHL)	67	16	13	29	22
Henrik Rybinski	25	6-1	172	Right	Vancouver, B.C.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/26	Hershey (AHL)	59	10	20	30	24
Landon Sim	22	5-10	166	Left	New Glasgow, N.S.	Free Agent: signed 4/14/26	Cincinnati (ECHL)	18	2	4	6	44
Borya Valis	22	6-2	195	Right	Los Angeles, Calif.	Free Agent: signed 3/1/25	Toronto (AHL)	60	15	10	25	41

UTAH MAMMOTH

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2025-26 NUMBERS

RECORD
43-33-6 (.561)

OVERTIME
10-6

SHOOTOUT
0-0

OVERALL
15th

OFFENSE
3.27 GPG (12th)

DEFENSE
2.93 GAA (11th)

POWER PLAY
20.0% (18th)

PENALTY KILL
78.1% (19th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.82 (7th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.54 (9th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
N. Schmaltz (19:43)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
M. Sergachev (24:18)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Andre Tourigny

GM
Bill Armstrong

CAPTAIN
Clayton Keller

ARENA
Delta Center

CAPACITY
16,200

AHL AFFILIATE
Tucson Roadrunners

ECHL AFFILIATE
N/A

BY AUSTIN FACER

THE BAR HAS BEEN raised in Utah. Coming off a 43-33-6 season and locking up the first wild-card spot in the Western Conference – the franchise's first playoff appearance since being reborn in Salt Lake City – the Mammoth have established a clear standard. Getting back to the post-season is no longer just a goal; it's an expectation, and Utah's brass is dialling up the push for contention.

The proof? The team made aggressive off-season moves, such as signing Anders Lee and trading for Vincent Trocheck. After years of hoarding assets, management is starting to cash in for 'win-now' difference-makers. Bringing in Trocheck came at a cost, with Utah sending a package that included 2024 first-rounder Cole Beaudoin and defenseman Sean Durzi to the Rangers. But the Mammoth aren't content to just crack the window to a Stanley Cup run; they're trying to break it wide open.

OFFENSE

Despite taking just 27.7 shots per game, Utah averaged 3.27 goals per game last season. You might think trading away JJ Peterka would be an indicator of regression, but the incoming additions quickly counter that argument. Bringing in Trocheck and Lee – as well as the expected arrival of Tij Iginla – gives fans plenty to be excited about. Not only that, but the Mammoth have youngsters Dylan Guenther and Logan Cooley, both of whom are already key pieces in a core that also includes Clayton Keller,

BRETT HOLMES-IMAGN IMAGES

SERGEI BELSKI-IMAGN IMAGES

Nick Schmaltz and Lawson Crouse. Complementary pieces round out the gaps with much-needed sandpaper and physicality. This team will be fun to watch in the offensive zone.

DEFENSE

Perhaps one of the biggest surprises from last season was the success of Nate Schmidt and John Marino. The duo landed 10th in expected-goals percentage among the 46 D-pairs to skate at least 500 minutes together at 5-on-5. Mikhail Sergachev retains his billing as the No. 1 defenseman, and with MacKenzie Weegar serving as his partner, it gives Utah a formidable top four. The departures of Durzi and Ian Cole provide opportunities for Maveric Lamoureux and Dmitri Simashev to crack the lineup on a full-time basis. They will be tasked with replicating Durzi's puck-moving skills.

GOALTENDING

Karel Vejmelka was a workhorse in the crease last season, leading NHL goaltenders with 64 appearances. Though he put up decent numbers, finding a competent backup has been a priority for the team in order to lighten his load. To that end, Utah is turning to Sebastian Cossa to keep 'Veggie' fresh. The 23-year-old Cossa, drafted 15th overall by Detroit in 2021, is looking to take the next step in his career. He has only one NHL appearance to his name but has been a star in the AHL for the past three seasons.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Throughout Utah's two-year history, special teams have been a major talking point. The Mammoth ranked in the middle of the pack last season on both the penalty kill and power play, and the playoff series against Vegas saw a catastrophic reality play out: Utah went 1-for-16 on the power play while giving up two shorthanded goals, making its goal differential with the man advantage minus-1. These are the situations where Trocheck and Lee's impact will be felt most. Adding former Canucks coach Adam Foote to the staff should help the penalty kill.

INTANGIBLES

After another strong season with the 'C,' Keller gets a major boost behind the scenes from Lee's veteran presence and leadership experience. Matching New Jersey's offer sheet for Barrett Hayton also signalled a deep belief in the core group. The Mammoth have a nice blend of veterans and youngsters in the dressing room, and now that they've been to the post-season, higher expectations will be a uniting standard for the entire squad.

The Hockey News CUP ODDS 30/1

ROOKIES

With a successful junior career in the books, Iginla – the sixth-overall pick from 2024 – will make his NHL debut. After a strong showing in development camp, it's also increasingly likely he will be in the lineup on opening night. It's Tij Time in Salt Lake City. Buckle up.

X-FACTOR

Injuries or a regression pose the biggest threats to Utah's contention hopes. After turning in career highs in goals and points last year, Schmaltz got an eight-year, $64-million extension. Was that just a flash in the pan? Utah is betting on the answer being no and is also hoping key players remain healthy. The Mammoth weathered all storms last season, but can they navigate adversity again?

THE BRASS

With the full support of owner Ryan Smith, GM Bill Armstrong has put the club's rebuilding stage behind him. With the Cup window open, it's now full steam ahead toward bringing a title to Utah.

DEPTH CHART | 2026-27

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Lawson Crouse	1. Nick Schmaltz	1. Clayton Keller
2. Anders Lee	2. Logan Cooley	2. Dylan Guenther
3. Vincent Trocheck	3. Barrett Hayton	3. Michael Carcone
4. Jack McBain	4. Kevin Stenlund	4. Kailer Yamamoto
5. Liam O'Brien	5. Tij Iginla	5. Brandon Tanev

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Mikhail Sergachev	6. Andrew Peeke	1. Karel Vejmelka
2. MacKenzie Weegar	7. Nick DeSimone	2. Sebastian Cossa
3. Nate Schmidt	8. Maveric Lamoureux	3. Michael Hrabal
4. John Marino	9. Artem Duda	
5. Dmitri Simashev	10. Tomas Lavoie	

INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs JJ Peterka, RW; Sean Durzi, D; Ian Cole, D; Alexander Kerfoot, C; Vitek Vanecek, G

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Dmitri Simashev
Pos D **Age** 21
2025-26 Tucson (AHL)
Demoted to AHL to get major minutes, and he thrived in minors en route to all-rookie nod.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

2. Tij Iginla
Pos C **Age** 20
2025-26 Kelowna (WHL)
How lethal is he? How about 41 goals in 48 WHL games? He's got dad's nose for the net.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

3. Daniil But
Pos LW **Age** 21
2025-26 Tucson (AHL)
Has raw talent, but he has to piece it together at NHL level. His AHL output suggests he will.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

4. Caleb Desnoyers
Pos C **Age** 19
2025-26 Moncton (QMJHL)
Beautiful passer who sees and finds seams others simply can't. He's good at faceoffs, too.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

5. Ethan Belchetz
Pos LW **Age** 18
2025-26 Windsor (OHL)
A physical presence at 6-foot-5 and 228 pounds, he knows how to use size to his advantage.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

6. Maveric Lamoureux
Pos D **Age** 22
2025-26 Tucson (AHL)
Happy to do dirty work and let his 'D' partner take spotlight. Still growing into huge frame.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

7. Sebastian Cossa
Pos G **Age** 23
2025-26 Grand Rapids (AHL)
Fresh opportunity and a real shot at second-string duty. Incredible athlete for his size.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

8. Adam Valentini
Pos C **Age** 18
2025-26 Michigan (Big Ten)
An all-star talent? Maybe not. But he can be a second-unit PP option and middle-sixer.
Expected NHL Arrival '30-31

9. Michael Hrabal
Pos G **Age** 21
2025-26 UMass (HE)
Hockey East's top player turned pro and showed well enough in end-of-season AHL cameo.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

10. Artem Duda
Pos D **Age** 22
2025-26 Tucson (AHL)
Patient puck-mover was displaying significant growth before hit with season-ending injury.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

POINTS-O-METER

2026-27 PROJECTIONS

	FORWARDS	DEFENSEMEN
100		
	92 Keller	
80	80 Guenther	
	70 Schmaltz	
	68 Cooley	
60		Sergachev 61
	54 Trocheck	
	46 Iginla	
40	40 Lee	
	40 Crouse	
	35 Hayton	
		Weegar 31
	30 Carcone	
	28 McBain	Marino 29
	24 Stenlund	
	24 Yamamoto	
20		Schmidt 20
		Simashev 15
		Peeke 13
	11 Tanev	
		DeSimone 7
	6 O'Brien	
0		

SCHEDULE

Thu, Oct 1	vs Chicago	9:00 PM
Sat, Oct 3	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sun, Oct 4	@ NY Rangers	6:00 PM
Tue, Oct 6	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 8	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 10	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 13	vs Toronto	9:00 PM
Thu, Oct 15	@ Edmonton	9:00 PM
Sat, Oct 17	vs Edmonton	10:00 PM
Mon, Oct 19	vs Pittsburgh	9:00 PM
Thu, Oct 22	@ Seattle	9:40 PM
Sat, Oct 24	vs Tampa Bay	9:00 PM
Tue, Oct 27	vs Minnesota	9:00 PM
Thu, Oct 29	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sun, Nov 1	@ Philadelphia	4:00 PM
Tue, Nov 3	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 5	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 7	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 11	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Thu, Nov 12	vs St. Louis	9:00 PM
Sat, Nov 14	vs San Jose	9:00 PM
Mon, Nov 16	vs Vancouver	9:30 PM
Wed, Nov 18	vs Colorado	9:00 PM
Sat, Nov 21	vs Anaheim	9:00 PM
Mon, Nov 23	@ Winnipeg	7:30 PM
Wed, Nov 25	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Fri, Nov 27	@ Nashville	1:00 PM
Sat, Nov 28	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Mon, Nov 30	vs Montreal	9:30 PM
Wed, Dec 2	vs Winnipeg	9:30 PM
Thu, Dec 3	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Sat, Dec 5	@ Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Thu, Dec 10	vs St. Louis	9:00 PM
Sat, Dec 12	@ Chicago	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 14	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Tue, Dec 15	vs NY Islanders	9:00 PM
Thu, Dec 17	vs Carolina	9:00 PM
Sat, Dec 19	@ Edmonton	3:30 PM
Mon, Dec 21	@ Vancouver	9:00 PM
Sat, Dec 26	@ Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Tue, Dec 29	vs New Jersey	9:00 PM
Thu, Dec 31	vs Colorado*	6:00 PM
Sat, Jan 2	vs Vancouver	10:00 PM
Tue, Jan 5	vs Ottawa	9:00 PM
Thu, Jan 7	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 9	@ Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 12	@ Chicago	8:00 PM
Wed, Jan 13	vs Detroit	9:00 PM
Fri, Jan 15	vs Los Angeles	9:00 PM
Mon, Jan 18	@ San Jose	4:00 PM
Sat, Jan 23	vs Boston	9:00 PM
Mon, Jan 25	vs Minnesota	9:00 PM
Wed, Jan 27	vs Buffalo	9:00 PM
Fri, Jan 29	vs Washington	9:00 PM
Sun, Jan 31	vs Nashville	8:00 PM
Tue, Feb 2	vs Nashville	9:00 PM
Wed, Feb 3	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Fri, Feb 12	vs Calgary	9:00 PM
Sun, Feb 14	@ Washington	1:00 PM
Mon, Feb 15	@ NY Islanders	3:00 PM
Wed, Feb 17	vs Columbus	9:00 PM
Fri, Feb 19	vs Seattle	9:00 PM
Sun, Feb 21	@ St. Louis	6:00 PM
Wed, Feb 24	vs Calgary	8:00 PM
Fri, Feb 26	vs Florida	9:00 PM
Sun, Feb 28	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 2	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 4	@ Nashville	9:30 PM
Sun, Mar 7	@ Carolina	1:00 PM
Tue, Mar 9	vs NY Rangers	9:00 PM
Sat, Mar 13	vs Philadelphia	5:00 PM
Mon, Mar 15	vs Dallas	9:00 PM
Thu, Mar 18	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Fri, Mar 19	vs Chicago	10:00 PM
Sun, Mar 21	@ Minnesota	2:00 PM
Tue, Mar 23	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Fri, Mar 26	vs San Jose	9:00 PM
Tue, Mar 30	@ Seattle	9:40 PM
Thu, Apr 1	vs Anaheim	9:00 PM
Sat, Apr 3	vs Vegas	10:00 PM
Mon, Apr 5	vs Winnipeg	9:30 PM
Wed, Apr 7	vs Dallas	9:30 PM
Fri, Apr 9	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Sat, Apr 10	@ St. Louis	7:00 PM

*Winter Classic

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ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

UTAH MAMMOTH

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Carl Axelsson	19	6-3	184	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	115th overall (2026)	Muskegon (USHL)	44	28-14-1	2.48	.916
Sebastian Cossa	23	6-6	229	Left	Hamilton, Ont.	Trade: Det 6/26/26	Grand Rapids (AHL)	39	26-8-4	2.33	.915
Michael Hrabal	21	6-6	209	Left	Prague, Cze.	38th overall (2023)	UMass (HE)	29	19-9-1	1.95	.937
Carsen Musser	21	6-4	215	Left	Fairmont, Minn.	166th overall (2023)	St. Thomas (NCHC)	21	11-6-3	2.96	.892
Jaxson Stauber	27	6-3	174	Left	Wayzata, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/5/24	Tucson (AHL)	36	15-15-6	3.07	.889
Melker Thelin	21	6-2	170	Left	Umea, Swe.	134th overall (2023)	Farjestad (SHL)	21	10-8-0	2.44	.899
Ivan Tkach-Tkachenko	19	6-3	185	Left	Ufa, Rus.	142nd overall (2025)	Ufa Jr. (Rus.)	27	14-7-4	2.80	.894
Karel Vejmelka	30	6-4	221	Right	Trebic, Cze.	Free Agent: signed 5/4/21	Utah	64	38-20-3	2.75	.897

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Reko Alanko	19	6-5	201	Right	Helsinki, Fin.	182nd overall (2025)	Jokerit Jr. (Fin.)	30	2	13	15	99
Gregor Biber	20	6-3	187	Left	Krems, Aut.	98th overall (2024)	Rogle (SHL)	38	1	1	2	12
Nick DeSimone	31	6-2	194	Right	East Amherst, N.Y.	Waivers: NJ 1/5/25	Utah	40	2	6	8	10
Artem Duda	22	6-1	187	Left	Moscow, Rus.	36th overall (2022)	Tucson (AHL)	27	2	11	13	22
Terrell Goldsmith	21	6-4	223	Left	Fort St. James, B.C.	102nd overall (2023)	Tucson (AHL)	3	0	0	0	7
Ludvig Johnson	20	6-0	181	Left	Zug, Sui.	174th overall (2025)	Fribourg-Gotteron (Sui.)	43	3	10	13	41
Zac Jones	25	5-10	176	Left	Richmond, Va.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Rochester (AHL)	60	10	52	62	14
Theodor Knights	18	6-4	194	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	130th overall (2026)	MoDo Jr. (Swe.)	24	0	2	2	78
Ludvig Lafton	20	6-2	187	Left	Baerum, Nor.	190th overall (2024)	Dubuque (USHL)	56	2	33	35	22
Maveric Lamoureux	22	6-6	196	Right	Laval, Que.	29th overall (2022)	Tucson (AHL)	65	5	15	20	75
Tomas Lavoie	20	6-4	215	Right	Repentigny, Que.	89th overall (2024)	Cape Breton/Chicoutimi (QMJHL)	56	10	37	47	34
John Marino	29	6-1	200	Right	North Easton, Mass.	Trade: NJ 6/29/24	Utah	80	4	32	36	16
Matthew Morden	22	6-4	203	Left	Hamilton, Ont.	131st overall (2022)	Harvard (ECAC)	34	4	16	20	25
Montana Onyebuchi	26	6-3	201	Right	Winnipeg, Man.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/23	Tucson (AHL)	44	1	9	10	67
Andrew Peeke	28	6-3	214	Right	Parkland, Fla.	Trade: Clb 3/8/24	Boston	77	5	9	14	22
Max Psenicka	19	6-5	177	Right	Prague, Cze.	46th overall (2025)	Portland (WHL)	53	8	22	30	67
Nate Schmidt	35	6-0	197	Left	St. Cloud, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Utah	82	5	17	22	22
Mikhail Sergachev	28	6-3	212	Left	Nizhnekamsk, Rus.	Trade: TB 6/29/24	Utah	78	10	49	59	44
Dmitri Simashev	21	6-4	198	Left	Kostroma, Rus.	6th overall (2023)	Tucson (AHL)	40	8	27	35	31
Will Skahan	20	6-4	209	Left	Anaheim Hills, Calif.	65th overall (2024)	Boston College (HE)	31	1	0	1	20
Cal Thomas	23	6-0	185	Left	Maple Grove, Minn.	171st overall (2021)	Minnesota (Big Ten)	31	1	4	5	10
Veeti Vaisanen	20	6-0	177	Left	Hamina, Fin.	96th overall (2024)	Medicine Hat (WHL)	47	6	17	23	36
MacKenzie Weegar	32	6-0	206	Right	Ottawa, Ont.	Trade: Cgy 3/4/26	Calgary/Utah	79	4	24	28	88

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Owen Allard	22	6-2	190	Left	Renfrew, Ont.	135th overall (2024)	Tucson (AHL)	69	8	11	19	16
Samu Bau	22	6-5	214	Left	Helsinki, Fin.	162nd overall (2023)	SaiPa (Liiga)	59	5	11	16	16
Logan Cooley	22	6-0	191	Left	Pittsburgh, Pa.	3rd overall (2022)	Utah	54	24	19	43	28
Caleb Desnoyers	19	6-2	178	Left	St-Hyacinthe, Que	4th overall (2025)	Moncton (QMJHL)	45	22	56	78	36
Barrett Hayton	26	6-1	200	Left	Peterborough, Ont.	5th overall (2018)	Utah	67	10	15	25	54
Cameron Hebig	29	5-10	184	Right	Saskatoon, Sask.	Free Agent: signed 7/18/25	Tucson (AHL)	68	25	29	54	30
Vojtech Hradec	21	6-4	202	Left	Mlada Boleslav, Cze.	167th overall (2024)	Mlada Boleslav (Cze.)	43	4	4	8	12
Tij Iginla	20	6-0	182	Left	Kelowna, B.C.	6th overall (2024)	Kelowna (WHL)	48	41	49	90	29
Tanner Ludtke	21	6-0	185	Left	Lakeville, Minn.	81st overall (2023)	Minnesota (Big Ten)	31	6	8	14	32
Jack McBain	26	6-4	219	Left	Toronto, Ont.	Trade: Min 3/21/22	Utah	75	9	16	25	84
Liam O'Brien	32	6-1	215	Left	Halifax, N.S.	Free Agent: signed 7/28/21	Utah	38	3	1	4	43
Nick Schmaltz	30	6-0	184	Right	Madison, Wis.	Trade: Chi 11/25/18	Utah	82	33	41	74	28
Gabe Smith	20	6-4	208	Left	St. Andrews, N.B.	103rd overall (2024)	Moncton (QMJHL)	60	34	43	77	49
Kevin Stenlund	30	6-3	213	Right	Stockholm, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Utah	80	4	14	18	24
Vincent Trocheck	33	5-11	188	Right	Pittsburgh, Pa.	Trade: NYR 7/1/26	NY Rangers	67	16	37	53	64
Adam Valentini	18	5-9	190	Left	Toronto, Ont.	96th overall (2026)	Michigan (Big Ten)	40	11	16	27	46

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Ethan Belchetz	18	6-5	228	Left	Oakville, Ont.	17th overall (2026)	Windsor (OHL)	57	34	25	59	45
Daniil But	21	6-5	203	Right	Yaroslavl, Rus.	12th overall (2023)	Tucson (AHL)	41	19	20	39	38
Michael Carcone	30	5-9	182	Left	Ajax, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/29/21	Utah	79	16	15	31	22
Lawson Crouse	29	6-4	214	Left	Mt. Brydges, Ont.	Trade: Fla 8/25/16	Utah	81	24	20	44	46
Ilya Fedotov	23	6-0	176	Right	Saratov, Rus.	43rd overall (2021)	Ufa/Novosibirsk (KHL)	39	3	6	9	21
Stepan Hoch	19	6-4	192	Left	Ceske Budejovice, Cze.	78th overall (2025)	Budejovice (Cze.)	37	2	4	6	12
Anders Lee	36	6-3	231	Left	Edina, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	NY Islanders	82	19	23	42	44
Sam Lipkin	23	6-2	192	Left	Philadelphia, Pa.	223rd overall (2021)	Tucson (AHL)	44	1	7	8	31
Julian Lutz	22	6-1	185	Left	Weingarten, Ger.	43rd overall (2022)	Tucson (AHL)	55	5	7	12	58
Ben McCartney	25	6-0	182	Left	Portage la Prairie, Man.	204th overall (2020)	Tucson (AHL)	59	21	30	51	75
Noel Nordh	21	6-2	196	Left	Soderhamn, Swe.	72nd overall (2023)	Tucson (AHL)	60	6	15	21	10
Artem Prima	18	6-0	178	Left	Yekaterinburg, Rus.	211th overall (2026)	Minot (NAHL)	28	8	18	26	6
Brandon Tanev	34	6-0	189	Left	Toronto, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Utah	56	0	3	3	50

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Yegor Borikov	21	6-1	180	Left	Zhlobin, Blr.	110th overall (2025)	Minsk (KHL)	59	16	14	30	16
Dylan Guenther	23	6-1	191	Right	Edmonton, Alta.	9th overall (2021)	Utah	79	40	33	73	28
Florent Houle	19	6-0	180	Right	Maria, Que.	147th overall (2026)	Sherbrooke (QMJHL)	52	19	22	41	93
Clayton Keller	28	5-10	175	Left	Chesterfield, Mo.	7th overall (2016)	Utah	82	26	62	88	38
Miko Matikka	22	6-3	187	Right	Helsinki, Fin.	67th overall (2022)	Tucson (AHL)	51	5	7	12	19
Vadim Moroz	22	6-2	185	Right	Minsk, Blr.	88th overall (2023)	Minsk (KHL)	54	14	15	29	31
Joshua Roy	23	6-0	192	Left	St-Georges-De-Beauce, Que.	Trade: Mtl 6/29/26	Laval (AHL)	57	23	22	45	32
Kailer Yamamoto	28	5-9	178	Right	Spokane, Wash.	Free Agent: signed 10/6/24	Utah	59	13	10	23	14

VANCOUVER CANUCKS

ELIAS PETTERSSON

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2025-26 NUMBERS

RECORD
25-49-8 (.354)

OVERTIME
4-6

SHOOTOUT
6-2

OVERALL
32nd

OFFENSE
2.56 GPG (31st)

DEFENSE
3.83 GAA (32nd)

POWER PLAY
21.8% (14th)

PENALTY KILL
71.5% (32nd)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.43 (28th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.94 (31st)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
B. Boeser (19:03)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
Q. Hughes (27:26)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Manny Malhotra

GM
Ryan Johnson

CAPTAIN
Vacant

ARENA
Rogers Arena

CAPACITY
18,910

AHL AFFILIATE
Abbotsford Canucks

ECHL AFFILIATE
Kalamazoo Wings

BY BEN KUZMA

IF YOU BUILD IT, they will come. That should be emblazoned on promotional campaigns for the rebuilding Vancouver Canucks, as the timing was right for critical change. By taking their hockey house down to the studs, the Canucks are finally committed to what their faithful fans have pined for – building for the future – and not some wacky roster retool on the fly.

A major restructuring resonated with the masses after the Canucks finished last overall in a sobering season that saw captain Quinn Hughes depart in a blockbuster trade, apathy grow and attendance drop. Quick, decisive decisions created a much-needed buzz in the organization and on the street. Henrik and Daniel Sedin were named co-presidents of hockey operations, Ryan Johnson became the GM and Manny Malhotra took over behind the bench. It wasn't just putting the band of good friends and former Canucks together. It was a commitment to ensure a key component of the rebuild. It's also why the Canucks brought in Brendan Gallagher and Luke Schenn to help show the way.

OFFENSE

Despite Jake DeBrusk tying for third with 19 power-play tallies, the Canucks tied for the second-fewest goals. Besides DeBrusk, Brock Boeser was the only other player to surpass the 20-goal plateau, and the leading scorer was Elias Pettersson, who collected a paltry 51 points. The trouble started early when Filip Chytil and Teddy Blueger sustained long-term injuries on Oct. 19. And when Marco

BOB FRID-IMAGN IMAGES

BOB FRID-IMAGN IMAGES

Rossi struggled early, it created the perfect storm, with the Canucks failing to make anything happen. It led to a franchise-record 11-game losing streak. The Canucks' league-worst 9-27-5 record on home ice proved how much was amiss.

DEFENSE

With Hughes, you don't replace a generational talent, but the return from the Minnesota Wild did include promising defenseman Zeev Buium. He quickly teased potential, showing off a strong stride, playmaking smarts and quarterback qualities to prop up the power play. Buium is a key cog in an evolving back end that includes the other Elias Pettersson, Tom Willander and Victor Mancini. A confusing man-to-man defensive system led to blueliners scrambling, making coverage mistakes, struggling to defend physically down low and creating turnovers by failing to move pucks in transition, but they treaded water and got better.

GOALTENDING

Can Thatcher Demko stay healthy? Can Kevin Lankinen bounce back? These are pressing questions, as the crease conundrum was another part of a sorry season gone south. Demko once again struggled with injuries and played just 20 games. He's buoyed by hip surgery, but he must improve on an 8-10-1 mark, 2.90 goals-against average and .897 save percentage. Lankinen played 47 games in the absence of Demko and struggled, posting an 11-27-5 record, 3.70 GAA and .875 SP. That paved the way for Nikita Tolopilo to log 18 starts.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Canucks went from impressive to disastrous on special teams. now: They owned the third-best penalty kill in 2024-25 at 82.6 percent, but it plummeted to last overall at 71.5 percent in 2025-26. Blueger's injury and Pius Suter's departure took away a top pair, and Kiefer Sherwood and Conor Garland were dealt last season, but Aatu Raty's faceoff prowess will help with defensive-zone draws. On the other hand, the power play placed a respectable 14th at 21.8 percent. Although the Canucks didn't muster much off the rush, DeBrusk was able to create down low.

INTANGIBLES

After Blueger's departure, can Chytil prop up the mess in the middle? Or is he better on the wing? Can the young blueliners take the next step in their development? Can ownership stay committed to the rebuild no matter how the season evolves? And how will Malhotra adapt to leading an NHL bench? All of these questions will make for an interesting season.

The Hockey News CUP ODDS

90/1

ROOKIES

Braeden Cootes played three games last season after being drafted 15th overall in 2025, but he could get into many more this campaign. He could also play in the AHL as a 19-year-old. The gifted center is coming off a strong WHL season split between Seattle and Prince Albert, collecting 63 points in 45 games.

X-FACTOR

Can everybody be content with losing? Patience is the key in a long, arduous rebuild. That requires an understanding from the fans amid heightened ticket prices, a hands-off commitment from prying ownership and the ability for management to move veteran players for draft capital.

THE BRASS

How will Johnson fare? Will he be able to broker trades and gain respect from his NHL peers? He's made some prudent trades and free-agent plays, but the key is to stay the course and guide the franchise's transition into the future. H

DEPTH CHART | 2026-27

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Jake DeBrusk	1. Elias Pettersson	1. Brock Boeser
2. Liam Ohgren	2. Marco Rossi	2. Linus Karlsson
3. Drew O'Connor	3. Aatu Raty	3. Filip Chytil
4. Paul Cotter	4. Ilya Safonov	4. Brendan Gallagher
5. Max Sasson	5. Braeden Cootes	5. Jonathan Lekkerimaki

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Zeev Buium	6. Luke Schenn	1. Thatcher Demko
2. Filip Hronek	7. Kirill Kudryavtsev	2. Kevin Lankinen
3. Jamie Oleksiak	8. Victor Mancini	3. Nikita Tolopilo
4. Tom Willander	9. Guillaume Brisebois	
5. Elias Pettersson	10. Sawyer Mynio	

■ INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Evander Kane, LW; Marcus Pettersson, D; Teddy Blueger, C; Pierre-Olivier Joseph, D; Nils Hoglander, LW; Curtis Douglas, C; Derek Forbort, D

CALEB MALHOTRA

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Caleb Malhotra
Pos C **Age** 18
2025-26 Brantford (OHL)
He can play on the No. 1 line and top power-play unit or in a shut-down role. A multi-tool pivot.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

2. Braeden Cootes
Pos C **Age** 19
2025-26 Prince Albert (WHL)
High-motor two-way pivot made Canucks out of camp in 2025. He won't sell out defense for offense.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

3. Jonathan Lekkerimaki
Pos RW **Age** 22
2025-26 Abbotsford (AHL)
Season-ending shoulder surgery just as he was beginning to show signs of settling into NHL.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

4. Adam Novotny
Pos LW **Age** 18
2025-26 Peterborough (OHL)
Strong winger has goal-scorer's touch and a healthy dash of grind-line bottom-six snarl.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

5. Brooks Rogowski
Pos C **Age** 18
2025-26 Oshawa (OHL)
The 6-foot-7 behemoth is raw but teachable. Has physical tools you simply can't teach.
Expected NHL Arrival '30-31

6. Niklas Aaram-Olsen
Pos LW **Age** 18
2025-26 Orebro Jr. (Swe.)
Has the combination of speed, size and skill. Will continue to hone game in NCAA with Boston U.
Expected NHL Arrival '31-32

7. Aleksei Medvedev
Pos G **Age** 19
2025-26 London (OHL)
Worry not about the numbers. Athletic keeper showed big-league poise even in tough outings.
Expected NHL Arrival '30-31

8. Sawyer Mynio
Pos D **Age** 21
2025-26 Abbotsford (AHL)
Skating is his best asset. Still learning intricacies of pro game, particularly in his own zone.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

9. Kirill Kudryavtsev
Pos D **Age** 22
2025-26 Abbotsford (AHL)
Makes up for size with smarts and positioning. Earned every second of brief NHL call-up.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

10. Dmitri Ivchenko
Pos G **Age** 18
2025-26 Omsk Jr. (Rus.)
A "boring" keeper – and that's a compliment. He's all fundamentals and very little flash.
Expected NHL Arrival '32-33

POINTS-O-METER

2026-27 PROJECTIONS

FORWARDS **DEFENSEMEN**

100

80

64 Pettersson

Hronek 61

60 Rossi

60

50 DeBrusk

47 Boeser

45 Karlsson

40

Buium 34

30 O'Connor
30 Ohgren
29 Gallagher

Willander 27

22 Cotter
22 Raty
20 Chytil

20

18 Sasson
18 Lekkerimaki
17 Cootes

Oleksiak 16

Pettersson 12

Joseph 8

Schenn 6

0

SCHEDULE

Tue, Sept 29	@ Edmonton	10:00 PM
Thu, Oct 1	vs Edmonton	10:00 PM
Sat, Oct 3	vs Calgary	10:00 PM
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Thu, Oct 8	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
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Tue, Jan 5	vs NY Islanders	9:00 PM
Thu, Jan 7	vs Tampa Bay	9:00 PM
Sat, Jan 9	vs Florida	10:00 PM
Thu, Jan 14	vs Seattle	9:00 PM
Sat, Jan 16	vs Columbus	10:00 PM
Mon, Jan 18	@ Colorado	3:00 PM
Wed, Jan 20	@ Nashville	2:00 PM
Fri, Jan 22	@ Chicago	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 23	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 26	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 28	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 30	@ St. Louis	3:30 PM
Mon, Feb 1	vs Montreal	8:30 PM
Wed, Feb 3	vs New Jersey	9:00 PM
Sat, Feb 13	vs Winnipeg	10:00 PM
Tue, Feb 16	vs Pittsburgh	9:00 PM
Thu, Feb 18	vs Ottawa	9:00 PM
Sat, Feb 20	vs Colorado	10:00 PM
Sun, Feb 21	vs Boston	8:00 PM
Tue, Feb 23	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Thu, Feb 25	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Sat, Feb 27	vs Calgary	10:00 PM
Wed, Mar 3	vs Chicago	10:00 PM
Sat, Mar 6	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 9	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 11	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 13	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 14	@ Ottawa	5:00 PM
Wed, Mar 17	vs Nashville	10:00 PM
Sat, Mar 20	vs St. Louis	10:00 PM
Sun, Mar 21	vs Edmonton	9:00 PM
Tue, Mar 23	vs Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Thu, Mar 25	vs Vegas	10:00 PM
Sat, Mar 27	vs Anaheim	4:00 PM
Mon, Mar 29	@ Los Angeles	9:30 PM
Wed, Mar 31	@ Vegas	10:30 PM
Sat, Apr 3	vs San Jose	10:00 PM
Tue, Apr 6	vs Colorado	10:00 PM
Fri, Apr 9	@ Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 10	@ Calgary	10:00 PM

BRANDON TAYLOR/OHL IMAGES

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

VANCOUVER CANUCKS

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Thatcher Demko	30	6-4	192	Left	San Diego, Calif.	36th overall (2014)	Vancouver	20	8-10-1	2.90	.897
Dmitri Ivchenko	18	6-3	179	Left	Novotroitsk, Rus.	78th overall (2026)	Omsk Jr. (Rus.)	19	11-5-1	1.91	.922
Aku Koskenvuo	23	6-4	173	Left	Espoo, Fin.	137th overall (2021)	Kalamazoo (ECHL)	22	12-10-0	3.15	.908
Kevin Lankinen	31	6-2	190	Left	Helsinki, Fin.	Free Agent: signed 9/21/24	Vancouver	47	11-27-5	3.70	.875
Aleksei Medvedev	19	6-2	178	Left	St. Petersburg, Rus.	47th overall (2025)	London (OHL)	36	16-15-3	3.26	.891
Nikita Tolopilo	26	6-6	229	Left	Minsk, Blr.	Free Agent: signed 3/31/23	Vancouver	21	6-11-2	3.61	.881
Ty Young	22	6-3	181	Left	Calgary, Alta.	144th overall (2022)	Abbotsford (AHL)	17	6-10-1	3.36	.884

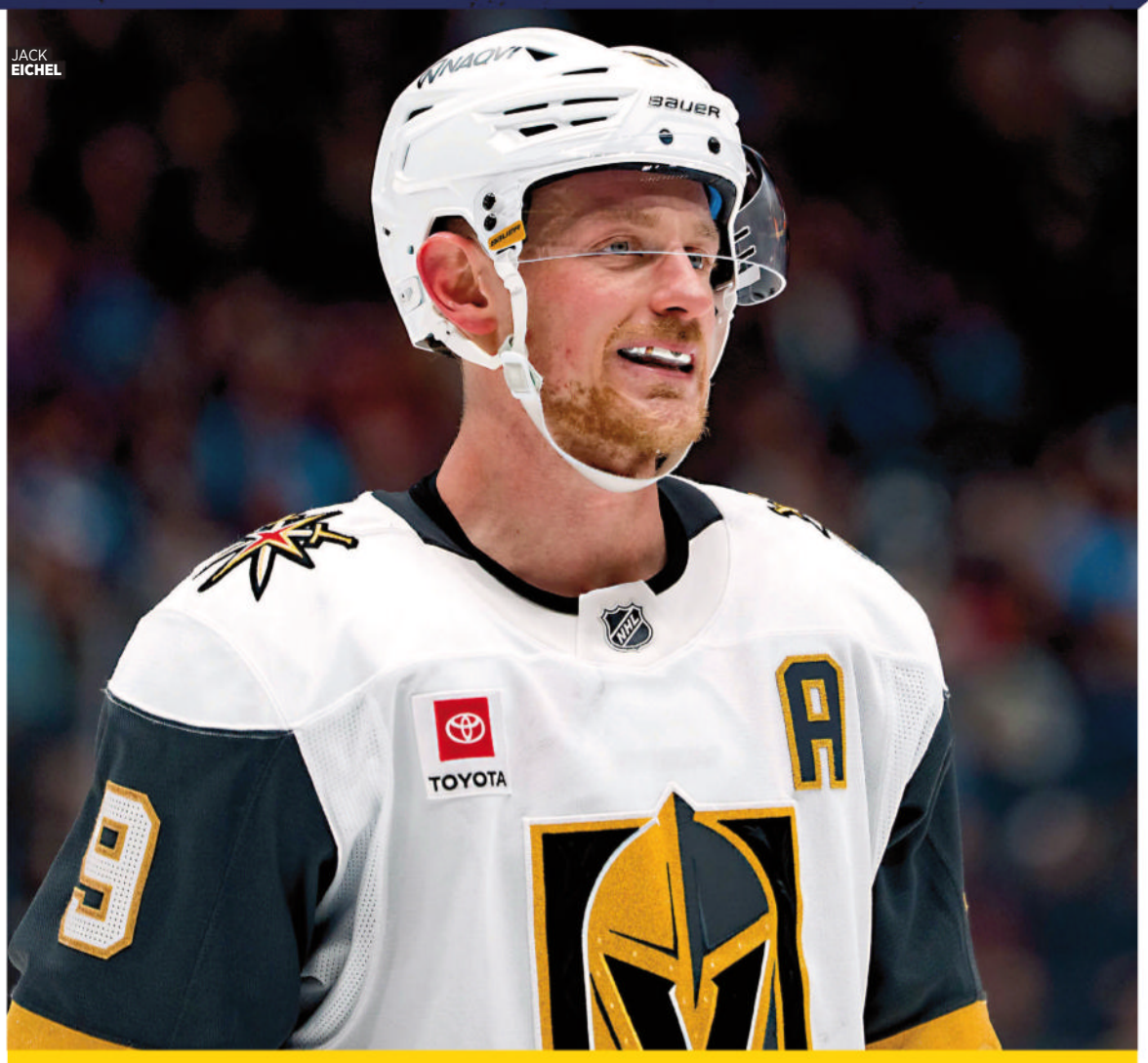
DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Parker Alcos	20	6-3	180	Right	Port Moody, B.C.	189th overall (2024)	Edmonton/Kelowna (WHL)	63	5	25	30	48
Guillaume Brisebois	29	6-2	175	Left	Longueuil, Que.	66th overall (2015)	Abbotsford (AHL)	9	1	1	2	2
Zeev Buium	20	6-0	183	Left	San Diego, Calif.	Trade: Min 12/12/25	Minnesota/Vancouver	76	6	20	26	41
Aiden Celebrini	21	6-1	187	Right	Vancouver, B.C.	171st overall (2023)	Boston University (HE)	35	0	7	7	12
Cole Clayton	26	6-2	198	Right	Strathmore, Alta.	Trade: SJ 1/19/26	San Jose/Abbotsford (AHL)	65	2	9	11	48
Samuel Eriksson	18	6-6	212	Left	Karlstad, Swe.	184th overall (2026)	Farjestad Jr. (Swe.)	32	3	3	6	18
Filip Hronek	28	6-0	190	Right	Hradec Kralove, Cze.	Trade: Det 3/1/23	Vancouver	82	8	41	49	33
Kirill Kudryavtsev	22	5-11	200	Left	Yaroslavl, Rus.	208th overall (2022)	Abbotsford (AHL)	44	2	18	20	4
Victor Mancini	24	6-3	215	Right	Hancock, Mich.	Trade: NYR 1/31/25	Abbotsford (AHL)	33	4	8	12	16
Sawyer Mynio	21	6-1	173	Left	Kamloops, B.C.	89th overall (2023)	Abbotsford (AHL)	58	3	18	21	42
Jamie Oleksiak	33	6-7	252	Left	Toronto, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Seattle	78	5	10	15	36
Elias Pettersson	22	6-2	185	Left	Vasteras, Swe.	80th overall (2022)	Vancouver	70	3	7	10	39
Basile Sansonnens	20	6-3	196	Left	Estavayer, Sui.	221st overall (2024)	Lausanne (Sui.)	44	0	3	3	31
Luke Schenn	36	6-2	225	Right	Saskatoon, Sask.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Winnipeg/Buffalo	50	1	6	7	43
Jimmy Schuldt	31	6-1	203	Left	Minnetonka, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Abbotsford (AHL)	70	3	15	18	59
Jack Thompson	24	6-1	189	Right	Courtice, Ont.	Trade: SJ 3/5/26	San Jose/Abbotsford (AHL)	56	6	19	25	20
Tom Willander	21	6-1	180	Right	Stockholm, Swe.	11th overall (2023)	Vancouver	70	5	16	21	28

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Wilson Bjorck	20	6-0	165	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	143rd overall (2025)	Colorado College (NCHC)	31	5	10	15	16
Filip Chytil	27	6-2	208	Left	Kromeriz, Cze.	Trade: NYR 1/31/25	Vancouver	12	3	0	3	6
Braeden Cootes	19	5-11	183	Right	Sherwood Park, Alta.	15th overall (2025)	Seattle/Prince Albert (WHL)	45	24	39	63	8
Paul Cotter	26	6-2	213	Left	Canton, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	New Jersey	79	9	6	15	19
Kieren Dervin	19	6-1	183	Left	Ottawa, Ont.	65th overall (2025)	Kingston (OHL)	53	17	25	42	20
Daimon Gardner	22	6-4	200	Left	Eagle Lake, Ont.	112th overall (2022)	St. Cloud State (NCHC)	26	2	2	4	19
Linus Karlsson	26	6-1	178	Right	Eksjo, Swe.	Trade: SJ 2/25/19	Vancouver	79	15	20	35	42
Matthew Lansing	19	6-0	186	Left	Buffalo, N.Y.	207th overall (2025)	Quinnipiac (ECAC)	40	8	10	18	20
Caleb Malhotra	18	6-2	182	Left	Victoria, B.C.	3rd overall (2026)	Brantford (OHL)	67	29	55	84	51
Ty Mueller	23	5-11	185	Left	Edmonton, Alta.	105th overall (2023)	Abbotsford (AHL)	61	16	21	37	30
Riley Patterson	20	6-0	192	Right	Burlington, Ont.	125th overall (2024)	Niagara (OHL)	60	40	44	84	16
Matthew Perkins	22	5-11	156	Left	Regina, Sask.	119th overall (2023)	Northeastern (HE)	29	4	3	7	10
Elias Pettersson	27	6-2	176	Left	Sundsvall, Swe.	5th overall (2017)	Vancouver	74	15	36	51	20
Aatu Raty	23	6-2	190	Left	Oulu, Fin.	Trade: NYI 1/30/23	Vancouver	66	4	10	14	22
Brooks Rogowski	18	6-7	235	Right	Sacramento, Calif.	33rd overall (2026)	Oshawa (OHL)	46	15	27	42	17
Anthony Romani	21	6-0	185	Right	Pickering, Ont.	162nd overall (2024)	Michigan State (Big Ten)	37	14	14	28	12
Marco Rossi	25	5-9	182	Left	Feldkirch, Aut.	Trade: Min 12/12/25	Minnesota/Vancouver	50	12	23	35	10
Ilya Safonov	25	6-4	205	Left	Moscow, Rus.	Trade: Chi 6/28/25	Kazan (KHL)	68	16	17	33	43
Max Sasson	26	6-1	181	Left	Birmingham, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 3/26/23	Vancouver	66	13	6	19	26
Matt Stienburg	25	6-1	182	Right	Halifax, N.S.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/26	Colorado (AHL)	8	2	1	3	11
Akil Thomas	26	6-0	195	Right	Toronto, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Ontario/Springfield (AHL)	39	9	13	22	16
Chase Wouters	26	6-0	182	Right	North Battleford, Sask.	Free Agent: signed 6/17/26	Abbotsford (AHL)	70	11	15	26	76

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Niklas Aaram-Olsen	18	6-1	183	Left	Oslo, Nor.	41st overall (2026)	Orebro Jr. (Swe.)	29	20	20	40	22
Vilmer Alriksson	21	6-6	214	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	107th overall (2023)	Vancouver	43	6	3	9	56
Arshdeep Bains	25	6-0	184	Left	Surrey, B.C.	Free Agent: signed 3/11/22	Abbotsford (AHL)	34	11	13	24	22
Yaroslav Bryzgalov	19	6-3	216	Left	Mogilev, Blr.	97th overall (2026)	Medicine Hat (WHL)	64	13	42	55	59
Jake DeBrusk	29	6-1	198	Left	Edmonton, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Vancouver	81	23	19	42	12
Mackenzie MacEachern	32	6-2	193	Left	Bloomfield Hills, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Abbotsford (AHL)	21	6	2	8	8
Adam Novotny	18	6-1	205	Left	Hradec Kralove, Cze.	24th overall (2026)	Peterborough (OHL)	58	34	31	65	22
Drew O'Connor	28	6-3	200	Left	Chatham, N.J.	Trade: Pit 1/31/25	Vancouver	82	17	12	29	47
Liam Ohgren	22	6-0	187	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	Trade: Min 12/12/25	Minnesota/Vancouver	69	8	10	18	2

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Lucian Bernat	18	6-4	201	Right	Bratislava, Svk.	176th overall (2026)	Tappara Jr. (Fin.)	37	15	16	31	16
Brock Boeser	29	6-1	208	Right	Burnsville, Minn.	23rd overall (2015)	Vancouver	75	22	26	48	8
Gabriel Chiarot	20	5-11	191	Right	Hamilton, Ont.	175th overall (2025)	Brampton/Kitchener (OHL)	62	20	16	36	78
Connor Davis	19	6-0	188	Right	Montreal, Que.	129th overall (2026)	Cedar Rapids (USHL)	59	26	29	55	23
Trey Fix-Wolansky	27	5-7	193	Right	Edmonton, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Hartford (AHL)	72	31	24	55	121
Brendan Gallagher	34	5-9	185	Right	Edmonton, Alta.	Trade: Mtl 6/29/26	Montreal	77	7	16	23	39
Jonathan Lekkerimaki	22	5-11	172	Right	Tullinge, Swe.	15th overall (2022)	Abbotsford (AHL)	21	13	7	20	8
Anri Ravinskis	23	6-2	186	Left	Riga, Lat.	Free Agent: signed 5/22/25	Abbotsford (AHL)	32	2	2	4	10

VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS


JACK EICHEL

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2025-26 NUMBERS

RECORD
39-26-17 (.579)

OVERTIME
8-9

SHOOTOUT
1-8

OVERALL
13th

OFFENSE
3.22 GPG (14th)

DEFENSE
2.95 GAA (12th)

POWER PLAY
24.6% (6th)

PENALTY KILL
81.4% (7th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.67 (17th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.27 (1st)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
J. Eichel (21:12)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
S. Theodore (22:50)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Ryan Craig

GM
Kelly McCrimmon

CAPTAIN
Mark Stone

ARENA
T-Mobile Arena

CAPACITY
17,500

AHL AFFILIATE
Henderson Silver Knights

ECHL AFFILIATE
Tahoe Knight Monsters

BY SCOTT ZERR

WHILE THE VEGAS GOLDEN Knights weren't able to secure another Stanley Cup banner for the rafters of T-Mobile Arena after another dramatic run to the Stanley Cup final, they remain a top-drawer championship contender – albeit one that enters the new season with its third coach in mere months.

With that being said, GM Kelly McCrimmon made the right call in dealing out Bruce Cassidy and calling upon John Tortorella, who wound up guiding the Golden Knights through a sensational playoff run. The plan was to put Ryan Craig behind the bench eventually, and he's now the headliner tasked with keeping the Golden Knights shining among the bright lights of the Las Vegas Strip. He'll do so without the team's leading goal-scorer from last season (Pavel Dorofeyev), but how many new bench bosses get the opportunity to step in with a club that already features Jack Eichel, Mitch Marner, Mark Stone, Shea Theodore and a crew that has the tools to win it all?

OFFENSE

There wasn't enough salary-cap space for the Golden Knights to retain all the weapons they had last season, so Dorofeyev and his team-leading 37 goals were deemed expendable. Replacing that offense won't be an easy task. It will come down to getting a group effort out of Victor Olofsson, William Karlsson (who missed nearly the entire season due to injury), Brett Howden and Braeden Bow-

BOB FRID-IMAGN IMAGES

man. Eichel remains an elite No. 1 center, and Stone showed he has plenty left as a two-way standout. Tomas Hertl and Ivan Barbashev are both ticketed for 20-plus goals. Last season, Vegas registered the fifth-most high-danger chances.

DEFENSE

There were no big changes on the blueline, but big money was spent on retaining the services of Rasmus Andersson. Acquired last season for a package that included first- and second-round picks, Andersson took some time to adjust but eventually found a solid spot alongside fellow former Flame Noah Hanifin. Though he wasn't a standout during the playoffs, Andersson was locked up with a seven-year deal ($8.5-million AAV). Jeremy Lauzon was also re-upped (six years, $4-million AAV). Andersson, Hanifin and Theodore aren't top-notch offensive producers, but they all have more than enough skill to get the puck moving. Brayden McNabb enters his 15th season, and sturdy Parker Wotherspoon was picked up via trade to bolster the third pairing.

GOALTENDING

Though it was a controversial decision, the Knights opted to bring in Carter Hart, and by the time the playoffs rolled around, he was the undisputed No. 1. He was great through the first three rounds, but he ran out of gas by the time Vegas hit the Cup final, and with Adin Hill far beyond rusty, it was all over. The team elected to hang onto Hill, hoping for a resurgent season in a 1B role.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The power play is instantly depleted by the absence of Dorofeyev's 20 goals on the man advantage. Hertl was the only other Golden Knight to hit double-digits on the power play, but Vegas still finished with the league's sixth-best ranking. Barbashev may be the recipient of more opportunity. When the team was a man down, Vegas had the seventh-best penalty kill, and with Karlsson back, he'll anchor the top shutdown spot. Expect McNabb and Wotherspoon to see significant time moving out bodies from the net-front on the kill.

INTANGIBLES

Stone and the leadership group jumped on Tortorella's ship late last season and turned around a team that had drifted badly. How the dressing room adjusts to the second new coach in such a short span will be an interesting study. A team normally at the forefront of major off-season moves played it mostly conservative, which might be a refreshing change for a veteran unit.

The Hockey News CUP ODDS 11/1

ROOKIES

Bowman went from being an unheralded minor-leaguer to a key depth piece after he was called up last season. Thanks to his skill set – and the need for the Golden Knights to find financially friendly options to fill some holes up front – he's played his way onto the team for the new season.

X-FACTOR

Vegas got a massive "new-coach bump" when Tortorella arrived just before the playoffs, leading the team to the final. Will the squad get a second one with Craig behind the bench, or did Tortorella take the Midas touch with him?

THE BRASS

McCrimmon elected to prioritize signing Andersson to a new long-term deal over shifting out enough money to keep Dorofeyev. Time will tell if that was a wise choice. The eighth-year GM also opted to make several changes lower in the lineup in order to get younger, cheaper and recoup draft picks.

DEPTH CHART | 2026-27

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Ivan Barbashev	1. Jack Eichel	1. Mitch Marner
2. Brett Howden	2. William Karlsson	2. Mark Stone
3. Victor Olofsson	3. Tomas Hertl	3. Braeden Bowman
4. Jonas Rondbjerg	4. Nic Dowd	4. Marc Gatcomb
5. Trevor Connelly	5. Tanner Laczynski	5. Alexander Holtz

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Shea Theodore	6. Parker Wotherspoon	1. Carter Hart
2. Brayden McNabb	7. Dylan Coghlan	2. Adin Hill
3. Noah Hanifin	8. Ville Heinola	3. Carl Lindbom
4. Rasmus Andersson	9. Lukas Cormier	
5. Jeremy Lauzon	10. Antti Tuomisto	

■ INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Pavel Dorofeyev, RW; Reilly Smith, RW; Akira Schmid, G; Cole Smith, LW; Colton Sissons, C; Kaedan Korczak, D; Keegan Kolesar, RW; Ben Hutton, D; Brandon Saad, LW

SERGEI BELSKI-IMAGN IMAGES

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Trevor Connelly
Pos LW **Age** 20
2025-26 Henderson (AHL)
Rapid winger fit seamlessly into AHL lineup. Point-per-game scorer in regular season and playoffs.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

2. Jakob Ihs Wozniak
Pos C **Age** 19
2025-26 Bjorkloven (Swe.2)
Landing in Swedish second tier was best for growth. Scoring struggles in playoffs were notable.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

3. Juho Piiparinen
Pos D **Age** 18
2025-26 Tappara (Liiga)
Regular in Liiga, but he has yet to show that he can consistently find the scoresheet.
Expected NHL Arrival '30-31

4. Carl Lindbom
Pos G **Age** 23
2025-26 Henderson (AHL)
By modern standards, he's small at 6-foot-1. But his stellar AHL stats ease size concerns.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

5. Benjamin Wilmott
Pos C **Age** 20
2025-26 Barrie (OHL)
Thorn in the side in both the corners and on the scoresheet. He'll take a beating to produce.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

6. Mathieu Cataford
Pos C **Age** 21
2025-26 Henderson (AHL)
Mercurial scorer does plenty well but has no elite attribute. Project with bottom-six potential.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

7. Matyas Sapovaliv
Pos C **Age** 22
2025-26 Henderson (AHL)
Perhaps better off the puck than on it. Gets to right spots. Needs to improve finishing, though.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

8. Mateo Nobert
Pos C **Age** 19
2025-26 Blain.-Bois. (QMJHL)
Shifty playmaker who can feather a pass through a pinhole. Defending requires improvement.
Expected NHL Arrival '30-31

9. Tuomas Uronen
Pos RW **Age** 21
2025-26 Henderson (AHL)
Dozen goals for AHL rookie was welcome surprise. Plays bigger than your typical six-footer.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

10. Pavel Moysevich
Pos G **Age** 22
2025-26 SKA-VMF St. Pete. (Rus.2)
At 6-foot-6, pucks simply hit him. Plan is to get regular game time after inking pro deal.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

POINTS-O-METER

2026-27 PROJECTIONS

FORWARDS **DEFENSEMEN**

100
91 Marner
90 Eichel
80
64 Stone
63 Hertl
60
59 Barbashev
46 Karlsson Theodore 46
43 Howden Andersson 44
40
34 Bowman
Hanifin 33
30 Olofsson
Wotherspoon 25
24 Dowd
22 Holtz
21 Connelly McNabb 21
20
Lauzon 13
11 Gatcomb
Coghlan 6
0

SCHEDULE

Tue, Sept 29	vs Chicago	10:30 PM
Fri, Oct 2	vs Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sun, Oct 4	@ Vancouver	9:00 PM
Tue, Oct 6	@ Seattle	9:40 PM
Thu, Oct 8	vs Toronto	10:00 PM
Sat, Oct 10	vs Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Mon, Oct 12	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Tue, Oct 13	@ Nashville	8:45 PM
Thu, Oct 15	vs Calgary	10:00 PM
Sat, Oct 17	vs Pittsburgh	10:00 PM
Tue, Oct 20	vs Tampa Bay	10:30 PM
Thu, Oct 22	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Sat, Oct 24	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 27	vs Ottawa	10:00 PM
Fri, Oct 30	vs New Jersey	6:00 PM
Mon, Nov 2	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 3	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 5	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Sun, Nov 8	@ Buffalo	3:30 PM
Wed, Nov 11	vs Utah	10:00 PM
Fri, Nov 13	vs Nashville	10:00 PM
Sun, Nov 15	vs Vancouver	9:00 PM
Tue, Nov 17	vs Dallas	10:00 PM
Thu, Nov 19	vs Dallas	10:00 PM
Sat, Nov 21	@ Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 24	@ Edmonton	8:00 PM
Fri, Nov 27	@ San Jose	4:00 PM
Sat, Nov 28	vs Montreal	4:00 PM
Tue, Dec 1	@ Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Thu, Dec 3	vs Utah	10:00 PM
Sat, Dec 5	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 8	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 10	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 12	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Wed, Dec 16	vs San Jose	10:00 PM
Fri, Dec 18	vs NY Islanders	10:00 PM
Mon, Dec 21	vs Carolina	10:00 PM
Tue, Dec 22	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sat, Dec 26	@ San Jose	10:00 PM
Mon, Dec 28	@ Minnesota	2:00 PM
Tue, Dec 29	@ Chicago	8:00 PM
Thu, Dec 31	vs St. Louis	3:00 PM
Sat, Jan 2	vs Colorado	10:00 PM
Mon, Jan 4	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Thu, Jan 7	vs Minnesota	9:30 PM
Sat, Jan 9	vs Seattle	10:00 PM
Tue, Jan 12	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 14	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 16	@ Florida	6:00 PM
Sun, Jan 17	@ Carolina	6:00 PM
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Sat, Feb 13	vs Calgary	10:00 PM
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Thu, Feb 18	vs Columbus	10:30 PM
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Mon, Feb 22	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
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Tue, Mar 2	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 4	@ NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Fri, Mar 5	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 7	@ NY Rangers	6:00 PM
Tue, Mar 9	vs San Jose	10:00 PM
Thu, Mar 11	vs Philadelphia	10:00 PM
Sat, Mar 13	vs NY Rangers	10:00 PM
Mon, Mar 15	vs Winnipeg	10:00 PM
Wed, Mar 17	vs Seattle	10:00 PM
Sat, Mar 20	@ Anaheim	10:30 PM
Tue, Mar 23	@ Seattle	9:40 PM
Thu, Mar 25	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Sat, Mar 27	@ Calgary	10:00 PM
Wed, Mar 31	vs Vancouver	10:30 PM
Fri, Apr 2	vs Edmonton	10:00 PM
Sat, Apr 3	@ Utah	10:00 PM
Tue, Apr 6	vs St. Louis	10:00 PM
Thu, Apr 8	@ Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Sat, Apr 10	vs Los Angeles	10:30 PM

*Stadium Series

R.J. FORBUST/HENDERSON SILVER KNIGHTS

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP	
Carter Hart	28	6-2	196	Left	Sherwood Park, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 10/16/26	Vegas	18	11-3-3	2.71	.891	
Adin Hill	30	6-4	215	Left	Comox, B.C.	Trade: SJ 8/29/22	Vegas	27	10-9-6	3.04	.871	
Carl Lindbom	23	6-1	165	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	222nd overall (2021)	Henderson (AHL)	35	24-5-8	2.16	.926	
Matthew Minchak	19	6-5	195	Left	Cranford, N.J.	191st overall (2026)	Kingston (OHL)	30	12-12-3	2.91	.910	
Pavel Moysevich	22	6-6	187	Left	Minsk, Blr.	83rd overall (2024)	SKA-VMF St. Petersburg (Rus.2)	10	5-3-0	2.41	.917	
Cameron Whitehead	23	6-3	170	Left	Orleans, Ont.	128th overall (2022)	Tahoe (ECHL)	24	12-9-3	3.01	.921	
DEFENSEMEN	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2025-26**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Rasmus Andersson	29	6-1	202	Right	Malmo, Swe.	Trade: Cgy 1/18/26	Calgary/Vegas	81	17	30	47	71
Sean Burick	18	6-8	214	Right	Laguna Hills, Calif.	95th overall (2026)	Penticton (WHL)	50	0	4	4	56
Dylan Coghlan	29	6-2	208	Right	Duncan, B.C.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Henderson (AHL)	62	14	30	44	28
Lukas Cormier	24	5-11	185	Left	Ste-Marie-de-Kent, N.B.	68th overall (2020)	Henderson (AHL)	49	8	39	47	32
Jeremy Davies	30	5-11	185	Left	Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, Que.	Free Agent: signed 10/5/25	Henderson (AHL)	72	9	38	47	74
Noah Ellis	24	6-2	191	Right	Urbandale, Iowa	184th overall (2020)	Sacred Heart (AHA)	40	9	10	19	12
Joe Fleming	23	6-1	215	Right	Wellesley, Mass.	Free Agent: signed 9/29/22	Henderson (AHL)	60	4	10	14	158
Adam Ginning	26	6-3	196	Left	Linkoping, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Lehigh Valley (AHL)	42	2	6	8	26
Noah Hanifin	29	6-3	207	Left	Boston, Mass.	Trade: Cgy 3/7/24	Vegas	71	3	25	28	14
Ville Heinola	25	6-0	181	Left	Honkajoki, Fin.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Manitoba (AHL)	44	3	18	21	24
Arttu Karki	21	6-2	176	Left	Viiala, Fin.	96th overall (2023)	HIFK/Jukurit (Liiga)	8	1	3	4	0
Viliam Kmec	22	6-2	212	Right	Kosice, Svk.	Free Agent: signed 9/23/24	Henderson (AHL)	65	4	12	16	27
Jeremy Lauzon	30	6-3	225	Left	Val-d'Or, Que.	Trade: Nsh 6/30/25	Vegas	68	1	12	13	89
Will McLaughlin	18	6-2	168	Left	Canmore, Alta.	159th overall (2026)	Portland (WHL)	68	9	21	30	14
Brayden McNabb	35	6-4	215	Left	Davidson, Sask.	Expansion: LA 6/21/17	Vegas	63	5	7	12	26
Jaycob Megna	34	6-6	214	Left	Plantation, Fla.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Henderson (AHL)	64	4	7	11	33
Alex Pietrangelo	36	6-3	215	Right	King City, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 10/12/20	Vegas			DNP		
Juho Piiparinen	18	6-1	201	Right	Lahti, Fin.	29th overall (2026)	Tappara (Liiga)	29	0	3	3	8
Bronson Ride	21	6-6	204	Left	Toronto, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 3/14/26	North Bay (OHL)	60	4	17	21	68
Gustav Sjoqvist	21	6-3	207	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	187th overall (2025)	AIK (Swe.2)	34	3	0	3	14
Shea Theodore	31	6-2	197	Left	Aldergrove, B.C.	Trade: Ana 6/21/17	Vegas	70	10	29	39	24
Antti Tuomisto	25	6-4	194	Right	Pori, Fin.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/26	Grand Rapids (AHL)	68	8	21	29	34
Parker Wotherspoon	29	6-1	192	Left	Surrey, B.C.	Trade: Pit 6/30/26	Pittsburgh	80	3	27	30	55
CENTERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2025-26**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Ivan Barbashev	30	6-0	198	Left	Moscow, Rus.	Trade: StL 2/26/23	Vegas	82	23	38	61	14
Jakub Brabenec	23	6-1	180	Left	Jihlava, Cze.	102nd overall (2021)	Henderson (AHL)	62	12	19	31	34
Mathieu Cataford	21	5-11	191	Right	Chateauguay, Que.	77th overall (2023)	Henderson (AHL)	59	3	10	13	24
Jakub Demek	23	6-4	210	Left	Kosice, Svk.	128th overall (2021)	Henderson (AHL)	4	0	1	1	0
Nic Dowd	36	6-1	193	Right	Huntsville, Ala.	Trade: Wsh 3/5/26	Washington/Vegas	75	5	16	21	73
Jack Eichel	29	6-2	203	Right	North Chelmsford, Mass.	Trade: Buf 11/4/21	Vegas	74	27	63	90	18
Marc Gatcomb	27	6-2	195	Right	Woburn, Mass.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	NY Islanders	49	3	4	7	10
Jordan Gustafson	22	5-11	191	Left	Ardrossan, Alta.	79th overall (2022)	Tahoe (ECHL)	30	9	20	29	2
Tomas Hertl	32	6-3	215	Left	Prague, Cze.	Trade: SJ 3/8/24	Vegas	82	24	34	58	39
Brett Howden	28	6-2	200	Left	Calgary, Alta.	Trade: NYR 7/17/21	Vegas	58	12	10	22	41
Jakob Ihs Wozniak	20	6-2	184	Right	Adelaide, Aus.	55th overall (2025)	Bjorkloven (Swe.2)	36	9	14	23	12
William Karlsson	33	6-0	190	Left	Marsta, Swe.	Expansion: Clb 6/21/17	Vegas	14	4	3	7	4
Tanner Laczynski	29	6-1	190	Right	Minooka, Ill.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Henderson (AHL)	62	22	42	64	35
Raphael Lavoie	27	6-4	215	Right	Chambly, Que.	Waivers: Edm 10/11/24	Henderson (AHL)	45	30	26	56	12
Ivan Morozov	26	6-1	178	Right	Khanty-Mansiysk, Rus.	61st overall (2018)	Spartak Moscow (KHL)	44	11	17	28	49
Mateo Nobert	20	6-0	166	Left	Beaconsfield, Que.	85th overall (2025)	Blainville-Boisbriand (QMJHL)	62	30	48	78	14
Matyas Sapovaliv	22	6-4	200	Left	Prague, Cze.	48th overall (2022)	Henderson (AHL)	72	18	17	35	8
Kai Uchacz	24	6-2	209	Right	Calgary, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 3/3/25	Henderson (AHL)	68	20	31	51	52
Lucas Van Vliet	20	6-2	175	Left	Livonia, Mich.	197th overall (2024)	St. Thomas (NCHC)	37	14	21	35	21
Alexander Weiermair	22	6-1	190	Right	Los Angeles, Calif.	186th overall (2025)	Portland (WHL)	66	37	56	93	28
Benjamin Wilmott	20	6-1	188	Left	Bellevue, Wash.	92nd overall (2026)	London/Barrie (OHL)	66	27	39	66	47
LEFT WINGERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2025-26**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Trevor Connelly	20	6-0	156	Left	Tustin, Calif.	19th overall (2024)	Henderson (AHL)	46	14	35	49	18
Jackson Hallum	24	5-11	163	Left	Eagan, Minn.	91st overall (2020)	Henderson (AHL)	69	10	16	26	46
Victor Olofsson	31	5-11	180	Left	Ornskoldsvik, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Colorado/Calgary	78	13	18	31	6
Noel Pakarinen	18	6-2	200	Left	Palo Alto, Calif.	207th overall (2026)	Kiekko-Espoo Jr. (Fin.)	31	13	17	30	30
Trent Swick	22	6-7	214	Left	St. Catharines, Ont.	180th overall (2024)	Tahoe (ECHL)	67	25	25	50	83
RIGHT WINGERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2025-26**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Braeden Bowman	24	6-1	205	Right	Kitchener, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 3/3/25	Vegas	54	8	18	26	12
Ben Hemmerling	22	5-11	174	Right	Edmonton, Alta.	177th overall (2022)	Henderson (AHL)	68	21	29	50	16
Alexander Holtz	24	6-0	195	Right	Stockholm, Swe.	Trade: NJ 6/29/24	Vegas	28	3	6	9	10
Mitch Marner	30	6-0	180	Right	Markham, Ont.	Trade: Tor 6/30/25	Vegas	81	24	56	80	24
Jonas Rondbjerg	27	6-2	202	Left	Horsholm, Den.	65th overall (2017)	Henderson (AHL)	43	13	13	26	12
Jonah Sivertson	18	6-3	194	Right	Regina, Sask.	113th overall (2026)	Prince Albert (WHL)	66	24	29	53	41
Mark Stone	34	6-3	212	Right	Winnipeg, Man.	Trade: Ott 2/25/19	Vegas	60	28	45	73	9
Tuomas Uronen	21	6-0	192	Right	Kerava, Fin.	192nd overall (2023)	Henderson (AHL)	57	12	8	20	34

WASHINGTON CAPITALS

2025-26 NUMBERS

RECORD
43-30-9 (.579)

OVERTIME
4-3

SHOOTOUT
2-6

OVERALL
12th

OFFENSE
3.18 GPG (15th)

DEFENSE
2.90 GAA (7th)

POWER PLAY
17.8% (25th)

PENALTY KILL
80.1% (14th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.88 (5th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.83 (24th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
T. Wilson (19:28)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
J. Chychrun (23:20)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Spencer Carbery

GM
Chris Patrick

CAPTAIN
Alex Ovechkin

ARENA
Capital One Arena

CAPACITY
18,506

AHL AFFILIATE
Hershey Bears

ECHL AFFILIATE
South Carolina Stingrays

ALEX OVECHKIN

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BY BEN RABY

THE 'GREAT WAIT' ENDED in July, when Alex Ovechkin announced he would return for his 22nd season. Ovechkin's decision followed months of speculation, arriving shortly after GM Chris Patrick aggressively bolstered the Capitals' roster via trades and free agency.

Patrick added speed and finish with Jordan Kyrou and Alex Tuch, while Boone Jenner and Vincent Desharnais bring grit and experience. The pickups strengthen a core that missed the playoffs last year despite ranking seventh in regulation wins and 12th in goal differential. In the spring, Ovechkin said he wanted to return to a team that would contend. A deeper crop of forwards and an improved power play could be the difference. If this is Ovechkin's farewell tour, one last run at the Stanley Cup isn't out of the question.

OFFENSE

With Kyrou, Tuch and Jenner all on board, the Capitals have one of the deepest forward groups in the Ovechkin era. Despite averaging a career-low 17:27 TOI per game, Ovechkin led the Capitals with 32 goals last season. While another 30-goal campaign is possible, Ovechkin's usage could be further reduced, and he returns with that understanding. Tom Wilson is coming off a second consecutive 30-goal season, while Ryan Leonard (20 goals) and Justin Sourdif (15 goals) contributed as rookies. Ilya Protas is believed to have more offensive upside than older brother

BOB FRID-IMAGN IMAGES

Aliaksei, who is coming off a 25-goal campaign. Jakob Chychrun led the way with a career-high 26 goals on a blueline that tied for third in points. After playing just 29 games last season, a healthy Pierre-Luc Dubois will further boost the top six.

DEFENSE

For the first time in 17 years, the Capitals will open training camp without John Carlson. Carlson's departure in March opened the door for Cole Hutson, who came as advertised with terrific mobility and offensive instincts. Hutson is expected to partner with Desharnais, who can cover as needed. Chychrun and Matt Roy regularly partnered last season and could be leaned on as a top pair. Among defenders who played a minimum of 1,400 minutes at five-a-side, Chychrun's 63.9 goals-for percentage led all NHL defensemen. Martin Fehervary can be trusted in a shutdown role and plays with an edge. The Caps will miss Rasmus Sandin's ability to exit the zone, as he will miss a good chunk of the first half following ACL surgery.

GOALTENDING

With Logan Thompson and Charlie Lindgren returning, there are few questions in goal. Thompson made a career-high 58 starts last season and allowed one goal or fewer 18 times, which tied him for second in the league. Since coming over from Vegas, Thompson has emerged as Washington's undisputed No. 1. Heading into his fifth year with the Caps, Lindgren is a trusted backup. Third-stringer Clay Stevenson impressed during recalls.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Improving the power play is a priority, as the unit converted at just 17.8 percent last season (25th overall). Zone entries, turnovers and a knack to force feed Ovechkin were all consistent issues. However, Hutson sparked the PP late in the year and could quarterback the unit. Kyrou and Tuch will also provide a boost, and assistant Ray Bennett brings a fresh perspective. The penalty kill struggled early but was the NHL's best from Dec. 1 on, clicking at 83.8 percent. Desharnais, Jenner and Tuch could all join the unit.

INTANGIBLES

With a blend of young talent and established vets, the Caps were well-prepared had Ovechkin retired. His mere presence, though, would have been hard to replace. Teammates feed off his energy and the palpable buzz around him. Ovechkin's pursuits of history have never been a distraction. Instead, they've been an inspiration. A potential farewell tour and a Stanley Cup chase could have a similar type of impact.

The Hockey News CUP ODDS 18/1

ROOKIES

Both Hutson and Ilya Protas impressed in late-season cameos and are ready for full-time gigs. Hutson lived up to his billing, recording 10 points in 14 games after turning pro. Protas was the AHL's rookie of the year and is pencilled in as the third-line center. The Caps are high on his offensive ceiling.

X-FACTOR

The impact Hutson made after arriving from Boston U. shouldn't be overlooked. The Caps went 10-3-1 with him in the lineup. His six PP points also led the team over that stretch. Will he hold up under the rigors of his first full pro campaign?

THE BRASS

Spencer Carbery returns for his fourth season with a new multi-year contract. Still one of the NHL's youngest coaches, he's been lauded for his ability to develop the team's youth while getting vets to buy in. Patrick has taken swings while perfectly threading the needle during the Caps' retool.

DEPTH CHART | 2026-27

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Alex Ovechkin	1. Dylan Strome	1. Jordan Kyrou
2. Aliaksei Protas	2. Pierre-Luc Dubois	2. Tom Wilson
3. Boone Jenner	3. Ilya Protas	3. Alex Tuch
4. Anthony Beauvillier	4. Justin Sourdif	4. Ryan Leonard
5. Ivan Miroshnichenko	5. Jonny Brodzinski	5. Ethen Frank

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Jakob Chychrun	6. Vincent Desharnais	1. Logan Thompson
2. Martin Fehervary	7. Timothy Liljegren	2. Charlie Lindgren
3. Matt Roy	8. Justin Holl	3. Clay Stevenson
4. Rasmus Sandin	9. Dylan McIlrath	INJURED
5. Cole Hutson	10. Ryan Chesley	INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Connor McMichael, C; Hendrix Lapierre, C; Trevor van Riemsdyk, D; Sonny Milano, LW; Brandon Duhaime, LW; David Kampf, C; Declan Chisholm, D

SERGEI BELSKI-IMAGN IMAGES

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Ilya Protas
Pos LW **Age** 20
2025-26 Hershey (AHL)
Top-scoring AHL rookie chipped in four points in four NHL games. Big, burly power forward.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

2. Cole Hutson
Pos D **Age** 20
2025-26 Boston University (HE)
Slotted right onto power play after coming out of college. Dynamic puck-mover with good IQ.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

3. Ivan Miroshnichenko
Pos LW **Age** 22
2025-26 Hershey (AHL)
He's hard to knock off pucks. Developing responsible play that will earn him NHL minutes.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

4. Oliver Suvanto
Pos C **Age** 18
2025-26 Tappara (Liiga)
Dogged on the forecheck and tireless on the backcheck. He's going to be a coach's favorite.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

5. Lynden Lakovic
Pos LW **Age** 19
2025-26 Moose Jaw (WHL)
Significant injuries limited big, mobile sharpshooter to 69 games over the past two seasons.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

6. Andrew Cristall
Pos LW **Age** 21
2025-26 Hershey (AHL)
His playmaking makes it easy to picture him working the wall on the power play for many years.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

7. Petr Sikora
Pos C **Age** 20
2025-26 Trinec (Cze.)
Developing in-house, not at arm's length, will benefit hard-nosed pivot. Czech WJC captain.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

8. Eriks Mateiko
Pos LW **Age** 20
2025-26 Hershey (AHL)
Devastating injury cost hulking 6-foot-5 power forward a trip to Olympics with Latvia.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

9. Terik Parascak
Pos RW **Age** 20
2025-26 Prince George (WHL)
After remarkable 105-point WHL rookie season, his scoring has dipped in consecutive campaigns.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

10. Tyus Sparks
Pos C **Age** 18
2025-26 Spokane (WHL)
Son of former CFL QB has athletic pedigree. Big shot and good feet, but he's inconsistent for now.
Expected NHL Arrival '30-31

POINTS-O-METER

2026-27 PROJECTIONS

FORWARDS **DEFENSEMEN**

100

80

70 Tuch

66 Strome
64 Wilson

62 Kyrou
62 A. Protas
61 Ovechkin

60

Chychrun 60

55 Leonard
55 Dubois

Hutson 50

42 Jenner

40

39 Sourdif

32 I. Protas

27 Beauvillier

Fehervary 26

24 Frank

Sandin 24
Roy 23

20

18 Brodzinski

Liljegren 12
Desharnais 10

Holl 5

0

SCHEDULE

Fri, Oct 2	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 3	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Wed, Oct 7	vs Pittsburgh	7:30 PM
Fri, Oct 9	vs NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Sun, Oct 11	vs Seattle	5:00 PM
Tue, Oct 13	@ Carolina	6:45 PM
Wed, Oct 14	vs Montreal	7:30 PM
Sat, Oct 17	vs New Jersey	1:00 PM
Tue, Oct 20	vs Los Angeles	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 24	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Wed, Oct 28	vs Philadelphia	7:30 PM
Thu, Oct 29	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Sun, Nov 1	vs Minnesota	3:30 PM
Tue, Nov 3	vs Dallas	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 7	vs Florida	12:30 PM
Tue, Nov 10	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 12	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 14	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 17	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 19	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 21	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 25	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 27	vs Florida	3:00 PM
Sat, Nov 28	@ St. Louis	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 1	vs Vancouver	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 3	@ Edmonton	8:00 PM
Sat, Dec 5	@ Calgary	3:30 PM
Mon, Dec 7	@ Vancouver	9:00 PM
Thu, Dec 10	@ Seattle	9:00 PM
Sat, Dec 12	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Tue, Dec 15	@ Dallas	9:30 PM
Thu, Dec 17	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 19	vs St. Louis	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 21	@ Toronto	1:00 PM
Sat, Dec 26	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 28	vs Edmonton	7:00 PM
Wed, Dec 30	@ NY Islanders	4:00 PM
Thu, Dec 31	@ Columbus	2:00 PM
Sat, Jan 2	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 4	vs Toronto	7:30 PM
Wed, Jan 6	@ Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Fri, Jan 8	@ San Jose	10:00 PM
Sun, Jan 10	@ Anaheim	8:00 PM
Tue, Jan 12	vs Vegas	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 14	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 16	vs Colorado	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 18	@ Pittsburgh	4:00 PM
Tue, Jan 19	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Fri, Jan 22	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 24	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Fri, Jan 29	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Sat, Jan 30	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Tue, Feb 2	vs Winnipeg	6:00 PM
Wed, Feb 3	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 13	@ Montreal	1:00 PM
Sun, Feb 14	vs Utah	1:00 PM
Tue, Feb 16	vs Anaheim	7:00 PM
Fri, Feb 19	vs San Jose	7:00 PM
Sun, Feb 21	vs Nashville	6:00 PM
Tue, Feb 23	vs NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 25	@ Boston	8:00 PM
Fri, Feb 26	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 1	@ NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Wed, Mar 3	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Fri, Mar 5	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Sun, Mar 7	@ Minnesota	8:30 PM
Tue, Mar 9	vs Calgary	7:00 PM
Wed, Mar 10	@ Chicago	9:30 PM
Sat, Mar 13	@ Pittsburgh	3:00 PM
Mon, Mar 15	vs Tampa Bay	1:00 PM
Wed, Mar 17	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 18	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 21	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 23	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Wed, Mar 24	@ Detroit	7:30 PM
Fri, Mar 26	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 28	@ Toronto	6:00 PM
Tue, Mar 30	vs Chicago	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 1	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 3	vs Columbus	5:00 PM
Sun, Apr 4	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Tue, Apr 6	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 8	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 10	@ Philadelphia	12:00 PM

NICK TURCHIARO-IMAGN IMAGES

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

WASHINGTON CAPITALS

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP	
Chase Clark	24	6-6	202	Right	Williamsville, N.Y.	183rd overall (2021)	Canisius (AHA)	24	11-10-2	2.73	.903	
Mitchell Gibson	27	6-1	188	Left	Phoenixville, Pa.	124th overall (2018)	Hershey (AHL)	23	9-9-5	2.94	.903	
Antoine Keller	21	6-2	176	Left	Dijon, Fra.	206th overall (2023)	Ajoie (Sui.)	14	4-7-1	3.05	.905	
Nicholas Kempf	20	6-2	189	Left	Chicago, Ill.	114th overall (2024)	Notre Dame (Big Ten)	34	9-19-5	3.55	.893	
Charlie Lindgren	32	6-2	179	Right	Lakeville, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/13/22	Washington	21	9-8-3	3.52	.879	
Clay Stevenson	27	6-4	195	Left	Drayton Valley, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 3/28/22	Hershey (AHL)	37	18-13-4	2.62	.912	
Logan Thompson	29	6-4	205	Right	Calgary, Alta.	Trade: Veg 6/29/24	Washington	58	31-21-6	2.44	.912	
DEFENSEMEN	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2025-26**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Cam Allen	21	6-0	194	Right	Toronto, Ont.	136th overall (2023)	Hershey (AHL)	22	3	4	7	22
Louie Belpedio	30	5-11	197	Right	Skokie, Ill.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/25	Hershey (AHL)	68	9	25	34	67
Ryan Chesley	22	6-0	195	Right	St. Paul, Minn.	37th overall (2022)	Hershey (AHL)	64	6	10	16	18
Jakob Chychrun	28	6-2	205	Left	Boca Raton, Fla.	Trade: Ott 7/1/24	Washington	80	26	34	60	62
Aron Dahlqvist	19	6-3	205	Left	Gavle, Swe.	180th overall (2025)	Brynas Jr. (Swe.)	29	1	6	7	44
Vincent Desharnais	30	6-7	226	Right	Laval, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	San Jose	53	1	6	7	68
Martin Fehervary	26	6-2	199	Left	Bratislava, Svk.	46th overall (2018)	Washington	81	5	22	27	39
David Gucciardi	23	6-1	185	Left	Toronto, Ont.	213th overall (2022)	Hershey (AHL)	52	3	10	13	55
Justin Holl	34	6-4	194	Right	Tonka Bay, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Grand Rapids (AHL)	41	2	12	14	10
Cole Hutson	20	5-10	165	Left	St. Louis, Mo.	43rd overall (2024)	Boston University (HE)	35	10	22	32	26
Joaquim Lemay	24	6-1	178	Left	St-Pierre-les-Becquets, Que.	119th overall (2021)	Northeastern (HE)	9	0	1	1	20
Timothy Liljegren	27	6-1	201	Right	Kristianstad, Swe.	Trade: SJ 3/6/26	San Jose/Washington	47	1	10	11	29
Jacob MacDonald	33	6-0	204	Left	Portland, Ore.	Free Agent: signed 7/5/26	Colorado (AHL)	17	4	8	12	2
Brian McFadden	18	6-5	183	Right	Boston, Mass.	144th overall (2026)	Thayer (USHS)	29	2	15	17	n/a
Dylan McIlrath	34	6-5	232	Right	Winnipeg, Man.	Free Agent: signed 7/28/21	Washington	13	0	0	0	10
Leon Muggli	20	6-0	165	Left	Cham, Sui.	52nd overall (2024)	Washington	27	1	6	7	4
Matt Roy	31	6-2	210	Right	Detroit, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Washington	79	2	17	19	12
Rasmus Sandin	26	5-11	182	Left	Uppsala, Swe.	Trade: Tor 2/28/23	Washington	73	5	24	29	12
CENTERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2025-26**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Jonny Brodzinski	33	6-0	211	Right	Ham Lake, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	NY Rangers	55	6	10	16	12
Jackson Crowder	19	6-3	184	Right	Allen, Texas	155th overall (2025)	Chicago (USHL)	45	20	26	46	74
Pierre-Luc Dubois	28	6-4	225	Left	Ste-Agathe-des-Monts, Que.	Trade: LA 6/19/24	Washington	29	5	14	19	19
Josh Dunne	27	6-4	211	Left	O'Fallon, Mo.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Buffalo	34	1	3	4	38
Ethen Frank	28	5-11	185	Right	Papillion, Neb.	Free Agent: signed 3/2/23	Washington	62	12	12	24	18
Brett Hyland	23	6-0	170	Left	Edmonton, Alta.	200th overall (2023)	Nebraska-Omaha (NCHC)	32	8	8	16	54
Boone Jenner	33	6-2	203	Left	Dorchester, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Columbus	67	13	25	38	44
Tyler Kopff	23	6-4	205	Left	Ridgewood, N.J.	Trade: Buf 7/13/26	Rochester (AHL)	30	1	4	5	23
Jordan Kyrou	28	6-1	196	Right	Toronto, Ont.	Trade: StL 6/23/26	St. Louis	72	18	28	46	8
Theodor Niederbach	24	5-11	172	Right	Ornskoldsvik, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 5/7/26	Frolunda (SHL)	52	13	19	32	16
Miroslav Satan	20	6-7	190	Left	East Amherst, N.Y.	212th overall (2024)	Shawinigan (QMJHL)	29	2	4	6	14
Petr Sikora	20	5-11	172	Left	Karvina, Cze.	178th overall (2024)	Trinec (Cze.)	24	3	6	9	8
Tyus Sparks	18	6-0	180	Right	Meridian, Idaho	101st overall (2026)	Vancouver/Spokane (WHL)	69	28	37	65	24
Dylan Strome	29	6-3	200	Left	Mississauga, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/14/22	Washington	80	19	39	58	46
Logan Stuart	18	5-11	175	Left	San Jose, Calif.	208th overall (2026)	USA U18 (NTDP)	57	10	20	30	16
Oliver Suvanto	18	6-3	207	Left	Turku, Fin.	18th overall (2026)	Tappara (Liiga)	48	2	9	11	16
Patrick Thomas	22	6-0	172	Left	Oakville, Ont.	104th overall (2023)	South Carolina (ECHL)	32	3	13	16	4
LEFT WINGERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2025-26**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Anthony Beauvillier	29	5-11	180	Left	Sorel-Tracy, Que.	Trade: Pit 3/7/25	Washington	82	15	13	28	30
Andrew Cristall	21	5-10	167	Left	Vancouver, B.C.	40th overall (2023)	Hershey (AHL)	72	20	40	60	24
Lynden Lakovic	19	6-4	190	Left	Kelowna, B.C.	27th overall (2025)	Moose Jaw (WHL)	22	18	11	29	8
Eriks Mateiko	20	6-5	208	Left	Jelgava, Lat.	90th overall (2024)	Hershey (AHL)	27	1	5	6	16
Ivan Miroshnichenko	22	6-1	185	Right	Ussuriysk, Rus.	20th overall (2022)	Hershey (AHL)	41	14	20	34	47
Alex Ovechkin	41	6-3	238	Right	Moscow, Rus.	1st overall (2004)	Washington	82	32	32	64	26
Ludwig Persson	22	6-0	185	Left	Gothenburg, Swe.	85th overall (2022)	South Carolina (ECHL)	41	9	14	23	10
Ilya Protas	20	6-5	198	Left	Vitebsk, Blr.	75th overall (2024)	Hershey (AHL)	69	29	37	66	40
Maxim Schafer	19	6-3	182	Left	Nuremberg, Ger.	96th overall (2025)	Chicoutimi (QMJHL)	53	21	28	49	28
Alexander Suzdalev	22	6-2	172	Left	Khabarovsk, Rus.	70th overall (2022)	Hershey (AHL)	41	10	14	24	4
RIGHT WINGERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2025-26**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Ryan Leonard	21	6-0	192	Right	Northhampton, Mass.	8th overall (2023)	Washington	75	20	25	45	47
Terik Parascak	20	6-0	173	Right	Lethbridge, Alta.	17th overall (2024)	Prince George (WHL)	61	33	46	79	53
Aliaksei Protas	25	6-6	225	Left	Vitebsk, Blr.	91st overall (2019)	Washington	76	25	27	52	20
Spencer Smallman	30	6-1	198	Right	Summerside, P.E.I.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/24	Hershey (AHL)	24	4	7	11	15
Justin Sourdif	24	5-11	180	Right	Richmond, B.C.	Trade: Fla 6/26/25	Washington	78	15	20	35	35
Bogdan Trineyev	24	6-3	198	Right	Voronezh, Rus.	117th overall (2020)	Hershey (AHL)	62	17	28	45	31
Alex Tuch	30	6-4	219	Right	Syracuse, Ariz.	Trade: Buf 6/24/26	Buffalo	79	33	33	66	57
Tom Wilson	32	6-4	220	Right	Toronto, Ont.	16th overall (2012)	Washington	72	30	32	62	117

WINNIPEG JETS

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2025-26 NUMBERS

RECORD
35-35-12 (.500)

OVERTIME
5-8

SHOOTOUT
2-4

OVERALL
26th

OFFENSE
2.79 GPG (26th)

DEFENSE
3.12 GAA (22nd)

POWER PLAY
18.5% (24th)

PENALTY KILL
77.6% (21st)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.48 (24th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.71 (19th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
K. Connor (21:30)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
J. Morrissey (24:43)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Scott Arniel

GM
Kevin Cheveldayoff

CAPTAIN
Adam Lowry

ARENA
Canada Life Centre

CAPACITY
15,225

AHL AFFILIATE
Manitoba Moose

ECHL AFFILIATE
Bloomington Bison

BY JARED CLINTON

THERE ARE LETDOWNS, THERE are declines and then there are plummets. Given the Winnipeg Jets went from Presidents' Trophy winners to booking spring tee times, we'll allow a single guess as to which category their 2025-26 campaign fell into.

But the Jets aren't taking last season's step backward as a reason to re-evaluate and explore a rebuild. Rather, the belief, at least in-house, is this group is primed to shoot back up the standings. While there has been some deck shuffling, notably the retirement of Jonathan Toews and last March's deadline departures of Logan Stanley and Luke Schenn, much of Winnipeg's roster remains unchanged. This might be one of the most important seasons in Winnipeg's young history, however, with the Jets' aging core itching for on-ice success while simultaneously watching helplessly as the contention window appears to be on its way to slamming shut.

OFFENSE

It used to be that the Jets needed a reliable second-line center. Now, the remit is reliability anywhere outside of the top line. Kyle Connor, Mark Scheifele and Gabe Vilardi will contribute roughly 100 goals. Last season, the trio combined for 105. But the rest of the roster registered just 124. Not only is that unsustainable, but it's a recipe for disaster should one (or more) of the Jets' top line fall injured. Cole Perfetti shaking off last season's dour offensive per-

DAN HAMILTON-IMAGN IMAGES

formance and/or Adam Lowry reverting to being a dozen-plus-goal performer will be integral to offensive success. A step forward from key deadline acquisition Isak Rosen would also level up the attack. Still, the lack of proven firepower and attacking additions is glaring. The Jets' offense will have to be greater than the sum of its parts.

DEFENSE

If the offense can't get the job done, it's going to be on the back end to do the heavy lifting. Thankfully for the Jets, Josh Morrissey has developed into one of the world's best and can shoulder much of the responsibility. But if all goes well, a healthy Neal Pionk and Dylan Samberg will ease Morrissey's workload. There is optimism, too, that a minor retool will produce better defensive returns. Mario Ferraro could slot into a middle-pairing role after logging monster minutes in San Jose, while Elias Salomonsson looked a readymade top-four defender in his 32 big-league games last season. If both settle in well, it will rejuvenate the blueline.

GOALTENDING

Though last season was his worst as a pro, Connor Hellebuyck is a three-time Vezina Trophy winner and one of the best goaltenders in the world – full stop. As he goes, so go the Jets. But Winnipeg's acquisition of Stuart Skinner should not go unnoticed. The two-time Cup finalist's performances can be mercurial, but his experience makes him a valuable second-in-command.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Given their lack of depth, one way for the Jets to tip games in their favor would be top-end special teams. But there's little to suggest they have the necessary tools to capitalize up or down a skater. Last season, the power play clicked at just 18.5 percent – down from 28.9 percent the year before – due in part to a lack of chance generation. Only four teams put fewer pucks on net per 60 PP minutes than did Winnipeg. The penalty kill has been a longstanding issue. Over the past five seasons, the Jets have had a top-10 kill just once and have thrice been ranked in the bottom third.

INTANGIBLES

The Jets will hope to make up for what they lack in youth and speed with a measure of grit and guile that can only be built through experience. With an average age nearing 29, there will be times throughout the season that Winnipeg will need to rely on veteran savvy to see games out.

The Hockey News CUP ODDS 40/1

ROOKIES

Desperate as they are for scoring punch, the Jets could turn to Brayden Yager as a middle-six scoring option and a power-play triggerman. His shot has long been his calling card, and working the power play and playing in the middle of the lineup would allow him to get his feet wet while playing low-risk minutes.

X-FACTOR

Even if Hellebuyck begins the season in Winnipeg, does he stay a Jet? His discontent was evident in spring exit interviews, and reporting indicated he was interested in moving on. If Hellebuyck exits at any point, it drastically alters the trajectory of Winnipeg's season – and future.

THE BRASS

GM Kevin Cheveldayoff continues to battle against player perception of Winnipeg as an undesirable destination, but he's managed to keep the Jets afloat with a penchant for coming out on the winning end of trades. But what he needs now, perhaps as much as ever, is his scouting staff to deliver hits on draft day.

DEPTH CHART | 2026-27

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Kyle Connor	1. Mark Scheifele	1. Gabe Vilardi
2. Cole Perfetti	2. Adam Lowry	2. Alex Iafallo
3. Nino Niederreiter	3. Morgan Barron	3. Isak Rosen
4. Cole Koepke	4. Vladislav Namestnikov	4. Nikita Chibrikov
5. Noah Gregor	5. Viggo Bjorck	5. Brad Lambert

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Josh Morrissey	6. Elias Salomonsson +	1. Connor Hellebuyck
2. Dylan Samberg	7. Haydn Fleury	2. Stuart Skinner
3. Neal Pionk	8. Henry Thrun	3. Thomas Milic
4. Dylan DeMelo	9. Jack St. Ivany	+ INJURED
5. Mario Ferraro	10. Isaak Phillips	■ INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Jonathan Toews, C; Gustav Nyquist, RW; Eric Comrie, G; Colin Miller, D; Jacob Bryson, D

JAMES CAREY LAUDER-IMAGN IMAGES

VIGGO BJORCK & GARY BETTMAN

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Viggo Bjorck
Pos C **Age** 18
2025-26 Djurgarden (SHL)
Concerns about size? Not in Winnipeg. Often-patient Jets are fast-tracking Bjorck to NHL.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

2. Sascha Boumedienne
Pos D **Age** 19
2025-26 Boston University (HE)
Skilled puck-mover transferring to Ohio State for bigger opportunity after two years at BU.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

3. Brayden Yager
Pos C **Age** 21
2025-26 Manitoba (AHL)
Triggerman struggled to find pockets to unleash his shot as AHL rookie. He needs seasoning.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

4. Isak Rosen
Pos RW **Age** 23
2025-26 Rochester (AHL)
Pencil sharpshooter in for middle-six job and PP work. He's proven all he has to in AHL.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

5. Brad Lambert
Pos C **Age** 22
2025-26 Manitoba (AHL)
After requesting trade, it's make-or-break time in Winnipeg. Was bright spot in late-season reps.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

6. Elias Salomonsson
Pos D **Age** 22
2025-26 Manitoba (AHL)
Beautiful skater makes great reads. Recovery from surgery will determine where he starts.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

7. Nikita Chibrikov
Pos RW **Age** 23
2025-26 Manitoba (AHL)
Spitfire on the forecheck. Playing catch-up after missing most of 2024-25 due to injury.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

8. Colby Barlow
Pos LW **Age** 21
2025-26 Manitoba (AHL)
Talented scorer but needs to improve skating to get to high-danger areas. Natural leader.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

9. Alfons Freij
Pos D **Age** 20
2025-26 Timra (SHL)
Nimble defender needs to pack on muscle. Improving first pass will help him raise his game.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

10. Samuel Hrenak
Pos G **Age** 18
2025-26 Fargo (USHL)
Showed well at U-18s for silver-winning Slovaks. Big, quick and never quits on a save.
Expected NHL Arrival '31-32

POINTS-O-METER

2026-27 PROJECTIONS

	FORWARDS	DEFENSEMEN
100	98 Scheifele	
	96 Connor	
80		
	71 Vilardi	
		Morrissey 62
60		
	55 Perfetti	
40		
		Pionk 33
	32 Niederreiter	
	31 Iafallo	
	30 Namestnikov	
	27 Lowry	
	21 Koepke	
20	20 Barron	DeMelo 20
	20 Yager	Ferraro 19
		Samberg 16
		Salomonsson 15
	13 Gregor	
	12 Rosen	
	11 Barlow	
	9 Lambert	
		Fleury 6
0		

SCHEDULE

Fri, Oct 2	vs Boston	8:00 PM
Sun, Oct 4	@ Detroit	1:00 PM
Mon, Oct 5	@ Pittsburgh	7:30 PM
Wed, Oct 7	vs Colorado	7:30 PM
Fri, Oct 9	vs Anaheim	8:00 PM
Tue, Oct 13	vs Minnesota	8:15 PM
Thu, Oct 15	@ Chicago	8:00 PM
Sat, Oct 17	vs Carolina	3:30 PM
Tue, Oct 20	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Thu, Oct 22	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Sun, Oct 25	vs Montreal *	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 27	vs Florida	8:00 PM
Thu, Oct 29	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Fri, Oct 30	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Sun, Nov 1	@ Carolina	1:00 PM
Tue, Nov 3	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 5	vs Vancouver	8:00 PM
Sun, Nov 8	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 10	vs New Jersey	8:00 PM
Thu, Nov 12	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Sat, Nov 14	@ Chicago	3:30 PM
Tue, Nov 17	vs Ottawa	8:00 PM
Thu, Nov 19	vs NY Islanders	8:00 PM
Sat, Nov 21	vs Vegas	7:00 PM
Mon, Nov 23	vs Utah	7:30 PM
Wed, Nov 25	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 27	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Sat, Nov 28	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Mon, Nov 30	vs Chicago	7:30 PM
Wed, Dec 2	@ Utah	9:30 PM
Sat, Dec 5	@ Vegas	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 6	@ Anaheim	8:00 PM
Tue, Dec 8	vs Philadelphia	8:00 PM
Thu, Dec 10	vs Chicago	8:00 PM
Sat, Dec 12	@ Minnesota	3:30 PM
Tue, Dec 15	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Sat, Dec 19	vs Dallas	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 20	vs Dallas	6:00 PM
Tue, Dec 22	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Sat, Dec 26	@ Minnesota	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 28	vs San Jose	7:30 PM
Thu, Dec 31	@ Calgary	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 2	vs Calgary	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 4	@ Buffalo	7:30 PM
Thu, Jan 7	vs Nashville	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 9	vs Utah	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 11	@ Toronto	7:30 PM
Thu, Jan 14	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 16	vs Anaheim	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 17	@ Edmonton	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 19	vs Minnesota	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 21	vs NY Rangers	8:00 PM
Sun, Jan 24	vs Buffalo	3:00 PM
Thu, Jan 28	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 30	@ Philadelphia	1:00 PM
Tue, Feb 2	@ Washington	6:00 PM
Wed, Feb 3	@ NY Rangers	7:30 PM
Sat, Feb 13	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Mon, Feb 15	@ San Jose	7:30 PM
Wed, Feb 17	vs Los Angeles	7:30 PM
Fri, Feb 19	vs St. Louis	8:00 PM
Sun, Feb 21	vs Pittsburgh	6:00 PM
Tue, Feb 23	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Thu, Feb 25	@ Colorado	10:30 PM
Sat, Feb 27	@ Seattle	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 1	vs Seattle	7:00 PM
Fri, Mar 5	vs Washington	8:00 PM
Sun, Mar 7	vs Calgary	3:00 PM
Tue, Mar 9	vs Detroit	8:00 PM
Thu, Mar 11	vs Toronto	8:00 PM
Sat, Mar 13	vs Nashville	3:30 PM
Mon, Mar 15	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Tue, Mar 16	@ Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Thu, Mar 18	vs San Jose	8:00 PM
Sat, Mar 20	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 23	vs St. Louis	8:00 PM
Thu, Mar 25	vs Colorado	8:00 PM
Sat, Mar 27	@ Colorado	7:00 PM
Wed, Mar 31	@ Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Sat, Apr 3	@ Seattle	7:00 PM
Mon, Apr 5	@ Utah	9:30 PM
Wed, Apr 7	vs Edmonton	8:00 PM
Fri, Apr 9	vs Vancouver	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 10	@ Edmonton	10:00 PM

*Heritage Classic

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ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

WINNIPEG JETS

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Domenic DiVincentiis	22	6-2	191	Left	Toronto, Ont.	207th overall (2022)	Manitoba (AHL)	34	13-16-3	3.03	.896
Connor Hellebuyck	33	6-4	207	Left	Commerce, Mich.	130th overall (2012)	Winnipeg	57	23-23-11	2.86	.895
Samuel Hrenak	18	6-3	190	Left	Povazska Bystrica, Svk.	71st overall (2026)	Team Slovakia U18 (Svk.2)	16	0-16-0	5.51	.888
Thomas Milic	23	6-0	175	Left	New Westminster, B.C.	151st overall (2023)	Manitoba (AHL)	41	20-13-8	2.64	.905
John Parsons	20	6-3	194	Left	Ithaca, N.Y.	220th overall (2026)	Providence (HE)	19	13-5-0	2.05	.922
Isaac Poulter	25	6-2	174	Left	Winnipeg, Man.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/25	Norfolk (ECHL)	43	25-17-1	2.76	.905
Stuart Skinner	27	6-4	230	Left	Edmonton, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Edmonton/Pittsburgh	50	23-17-9	2.92	.888

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Tyrel Bauer	24	6-3	207	Right	Calgary, Alta.	164th overall (2020)	Manitoba (AHL)	52	1	4	5	110
Sascha Boumedienne	19	6-1	175	Left	Oulu, Fin.	28th overall (2025)	Boston University (HE)	35	2	8	10	14
Garrett Brown	22	6-2	178	Right	Buffalo, N.Y.	99th overall (2022)	Denver (NCHC)	34	2	12	14	12
Dylan DeMelo	33	6-1	194	Right	London, Ont.	Trade: Ott 2/18/20	Winnipeg	82	3	16	19	40
Edison Engle	19	6-2	175	Left	Arlington Heights, Ill.	188th overall (2025)	Brantford (OHL)	61	3	25	28	8
Mario Ferraro	28	6-0	209	Left	Toronto, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	San Jose	82	7	16	23	35
Haydn Fleury	30	6-4	207	Left	Carlyle, Sask.	Free Agent: signed 7/3/24	Winnipeg	38	2	2	4	12
Alfons Freij	20	6-1	187	Left	Solvesborg, Swe.	37th overall (2024)	Timra (SHL)	42	6	5	11	14
Josh Morrissey	31	6-0	195	Left	Calgary, Alta.	13th overall (2013)	Winnipeg	77	14	41	55	30
Isaak Phillips	25	6-3	205	Left	Barrie, Ont.	Trade: Chi 1/15/25	Manitoba (AHL)	67	10	19	29	45
Neal Pionk	31	6-0	190	Right	Omaha, Neb.	Trade: NYR 6/17/19	Winnipeg	51	3	9	12	37
Elias Salomonsson	22	6-0	172	Right	Skelleftea, Swe.	55th overall (2022)	Winnipeg	32	1	4	5	12
Dylan Samberg	27	6-4	216	Left	Saginaw, Minn.	43rd overall (2017)	Winnipeg	66	1	13	14	14
John St-Ivany	27	6-4	205	Right	Manhattan Beach, Calif.	Trade: Pit 6/29/26	Pittsburgh	20	0	7	7	6
Alexandre Taillefer	18	6-0	164	Left	St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Que.	135th overall (2026)	Quebec (QMJHL)	28	2	15	17	15
Henry Thrun	25	6-2	210	Left	Southborough, Mass.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/26	Toronto (AHL)	55	5	18	23	37
Alofa Tunoa Ta'amu	18	6-2	228	Left	Kansas City, Mo.	199th overall (2026)	Edmonton (WHL)	62	3	9	12	81

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Morgan Barron	27	6-4	220	Left	Halifax, N.S.	Trade: NYR 3/21/22	Winnipeg	65	11	12	23	31
Viggo Bjorck	18	5-9	177	Right	Stockholm, Swe.	8th overall (2026)	Djurgarden (SHL)	42	6	9	15	12
Parker Ford	26	5-9	181	Right	Wakefield, R.I.	Free Agent: signed 3/25/23	Manitoba (AHL)	52	8	18	26	24
Noah Gregor	28	6-0	201	Left	Beaumont, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/26	Florida	37	4	5	9	26
Landon Hafele	19	6-0	179	Left	Fairbanks, Alaska	167th overall (2026)	Green Bay (USHL)	52	15	27	42	69
Jacob Julien	22	6-4	181	Left	London, Ont.	146th overall (2023)	Manitoba (AHL)	31	3	4	7	12
Rasmus Kupari	26	6-2	201	Right	Kotka, Fin.	Trade: LA 6/27/23	Lugano (Sui.)	7	1	1	2	2
Brad Lambert	22	6-1	173	Right	Lahti, Fin.	30th overall (2022)	Manitoba (AHL)	34	6	7	13	18
Markus Loponen	20	6-1	186	Left	Oulu, Fin.	155th overall (2024)	HPK (Liiga)	40	3	3	6	24
Adam Lowry	33	6-5	210	Left	St. Louis, Mo.	67th overall (2011)	Winnipeg	70	5	16	21	32
Owen Martin	19	6-0	185	Right	Oakbank, Man.	92nd overall (2025)	Spokane (WHL)	65	26	30	56	44
Vladislav Namestnikov	33	6-0	181	Left	Zhukovskiy, Rus.	Trade: SJ 3/3/23	Winnipeg	60	8	6	14	28
Cole Perfetti	24	5-11	185	Left	Whitby, Ont.	10th overall (2020)	Winnipeg	68	12	20	32	20
Mark Scheifele	33	6-3	207	Right	Kitchener, Ont.	7th overall (2011)	Winnipeg	82	36	67	103	43
Gabe Vilardi	27	6-3	216	Right	Kingston, Ont.	Trade: LA 6/27/23	Winnipeg	82	30	39	69	24
Fabian Wagner	22	5-10	170	Left	Nykoping, Swe.	175th overall (2022)	Manitoba (AHL)	29	1	2	3	4
Kieron Walton	20	6-6	211	Left	Toronto, Ont.	187th overall (2024)	Sudbury/Peterborough (OHL)	62	40	48	88	26
Brayden Yager	21	5-11	166	Right	Saskatoon, Sask.	Trade: PIT 8/22/24	Manitoba (AHL)	68	10	20	30	10
Danil Zhilkin	22	6-1	192	Left	Moscow, Rus.	77th overall (2022)	Manitoba (AHL)	62	12	12	24	21

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Colby Barlow	21	6-0	190	Left	Orillia, Ont.	18th overall (2023)	Manitoba (AHL)	65	8	8	16	18
Kyle Connor	29	6-1	183	Left	Shelby Township, Mich.	17th overall (2015)	Winnipeg	82	39	53	92	16
Kevin He	20	5-11	182	Left	Beijing, Chn.	109th overall (2024)	Niagara/Flint (OHL)	60	39	38	77	26
Alex Iafallo	32	6-0	201	Left	Eden, N.Y.	Trade: LA 6/27/23	Winnipeg	79	13	16	29	14
Cole Koepke	28	6-1	207	Left	Two Harbors, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/25	Winnipeg	66	8	9	17	16
Zach Wooten	20	6-2	205	Left	Apple Valley, Minn.	116th overall (2026)	Green Bay (USHL)	61	35	27	62	86

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2025-26	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Nikita Chibrikov	23	5-10	170	Left	Moscow, Rus.	50th overall (2021)	Manitoba (AHL)	53	6	10	16	28
Jacob Cloutier	19	5-10	171	Right	Ottawa, Ont.	220th overall (2025)	Saginaw (OHL)	64	22	25	47	50
Walker Duehr	28	6-2	210	Right	Sioux Falls, S.D.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/25	Manitoba (AHL)	62	17	17	34	18
Viktor Klingsell	19	5-10	188	Left	Jarfalla, Swe.	156th overall (2025)	Skelleftea Jr. (Swe.)	25	17	26	43	2
Connor Levis	21	6-1	187	Right	Vancouver, B.C.	210th overall (2023)	Bowling Green State (CCHA)	31	4	1	5	6
Zach Nehring	21	6-3	179	Right	Minot, N.D.	82nd overall (2023)	Western Michigan (NCHC)	35	5	12	17	12
Nino Niederreiter	34	6-2	218	Left	Chur, Sui.	Trade: Nsh 2/25/23	Winnipeg	61	8	11	19	1
Dmitri Rashevsky	25	6-1	165	Left	St. Petersburg, Rus.	146th overall (2021)	Omsk (KHL)	67	11	22	33	12
Isak Rosen	23	6-0	180	Left	Solna, Swe.	Trade: Buf 3/5/26	Rochester (AHL)	37	25	18	43	6
Lucas Wahlin	25	6-0	170	Right	Woodbury, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 3/25/26	St. Thomas (NCHC)	36	21	18	39	41

NHL

Surveying The Landscape

From rule changes to goaltending trends, the NHL is ever-changing, and with that comes a setting where fantasy managers must continue to evolve BY MURRAY TOWNSEND

MANY FANS OF a certain vintage remember growing up with *Hockey Night in Canada* and the familiar opening, "Hello, Canada and hockey fans in the United States and Newfoundland." Saturday nights were special, as families huddled around their televisions with their bags of chips and cans of pop to watch the game's stars put on a show. Youngsters looked on in awe, dreaming that one day they would become one of those NHL players adored by fans.

Hockey Night in Canada will no longer air on CBC as of this year, but truth be told, it changed long ago as technology altered the way we watched the sport on television.

But change is not surprising. Whether we realize it or not, hockey is constantly shifting – and lately more than ever in the fantasy-hockey world. Several factors are reshaping the landscape: new rules, performance shifts following last season's compressed Olympic schedule, evolving team strategies and changing demographics. Here are some things we can consider including in our fantasy-hockey repertoire this year.

MORE GAMES

The number of regular-season games is increasing from 82 to 84, and the number of pre-season games is being reduced to a maximum of four per team. On the surface, it's not much of a difference, even though many veterans aren't playing in those pre-season games, and scoring isn't going to change much. But it could affect a change in attitude. Load management is a problem in the NBA and could become one in the NHL. If you're a coach or GM, you have to at least think of resting your regulars more often, especially near the end of the regular season when there could be more meaningless games. Fewer matches, on the other hand, would have reduced the need for load management.

CHL/AHL RULE

Teams can now select one 19-year-old CHL player to play for their AHL affiliate. No longer do we have to worry about those players being sent back to junior before they've played 10 games. They can play in the AHL and the NHL.

Some players have nothing left to prove in junior, so they're the ones who will stay. A few teams may not do it, but if a team does, we can expect that player to play some NHL games. Depending on their AHL performances, a few may even spend a good chunk of time in the NHL. Some top prospects, such as Brady Martin of Nashville and Braeden Cootes of Vancouver, hung around for a couple of games last season, so they'll be candidates to stay this year. Seattle's Jake O'Brien also has little left to prove in junior. Keep close tabs on what goes on during training camp. To help determine those players, look at who was drafted in the 2025 NHL draft, as those are the ones who will be eligible.

MIKE SEGAR/REUTERS VIA IMAGN IMAGES

ADAM FANTILLI

WITH NO OLYMPIC BREAK, THINGS WILL NORMALIZE

We saw some unusual things last season because of the NHL condensing its schedule for the Olympics. Players were tired, and tired players and teams play differently: less defensive effort, less playing time for top skaters and lines and more playing time for backup goalies.

We saw a lot of bottom-six players have career-best seasons in 2025-26, even older ones who rarely pull that off. That's because they got more ice time, and possibly faced weaker defensive matchups.

So what does a less-condensed schedule mean for fantasy managers this year? Top players will play more and be less tired but will face more defensive pressure, so that's a wash. But bottom-six players will receive less ice time and score less. And teams can play their top goalies more often, and those keepers will play better because they're less tired.

The bottom line is, beware of the many out-of-character performances that took place last season, as they're, well, out of character and likely won't be repeated.

JACK HUGHES

HUGHES: BOB FRID-IMAGN IMAGES; FANTILLI: ERIC BOLTE-IMAGN IMAGES

BREAK TIME

Every year, for fantasy purposes, we look at the Christmas break or All-Star Weekend as a reset for some players. If a player has been struggling, the time off gives them a chance to get their head straight and come back revitalized – similar to when you come back to work from the weekend.

The Olympic break, however, was much longer and more important – almost like when you come back to work from vacation. Here are the potential stages of what a struggling player went through during the Olympic break:

Stage 1: *Phew, I could use the break. It's nice to have some time off. I think I'll have a mojito on the beach.*

Stage 2: *Now, it's time to think. If I don't start playing better, I'm going to have a lot more time off. And why aren't I playing better?*

Stage 3: *It's time to watch the Olympic hockey games. Rarely do I get a chance or have a desire to watch other games during the season.*

Stage 4: *Look at the effort of these guys. It's incredible. I thought I was giving that effort but…*

Stage 5: *I'd better smarten up, or I'm going to have to work for a living.*

Stage 6: *I'm feeling energized. When I get back, it's going to be different. I can feel it.*

Stage 7: *Maybe I'll have just one more mojito.*

Many players had rough times before the break, including Columbus' Adam Fantilli, but the time off rejuvenated them. Before the break, Fantilli had 13 goals and 36 points in 56 games. In 26 games after the break, he scored 11 goals and 23 points. Robert Thomas had 31 points in 22 games after the break – compared to 33 points in 42 games before.

Another player of note is former Philadelphia Flyers goaltender Samuel Ersson, now a member of the Ottawa Senators. He posted a record of 6-1-0 to go along with a 1.99 goals-against average and .912 save percentage after play resumed.

There is no Olympic break this year, but it's something to keep in mind for the future, and it's also relevant for players coming back from injuries, breaks in the season and for those who've been traded – all circumstances that could give a player a new lease on life.

Bobby McMann is a good example of a player who got a temporary bump following a trade. He scored 19 goals in 60 games for Toronto and a whopping 10 in just 18 games after being dealt to Seattle. In most cases, traded players will eventually return to their normal rate of scoring. But they may also just be a better fit in their new location.

Nobody's tried this – that we know of – but a smart or risk-taking GM might take a struggling player, send him to the Bahamas and tell him to stay out of the sun so he doesn't get a tan. Report an upper-body injury, and have him come back refreshed.

ANALYTICS

There's no doubt that analytics are changing the game – but not so much for fantasy players or regular hockey fans.

Most analytic stats never caught on with the public. Team management may use them, but it's the rare fan who can tell you someone's Corsi numbers or even cares enough to look them up. One of the newer stats is called expected goals. It determines how many goals a player should have scored based on select criteria. It's interesting, but there's a better one in my opinion: actual goals.

If we can't even get the simplest of stats right, how are we going to determine the usefulness of the more complex ones? It seems that as soon as the first goal is scored in every game, television broadcasters trot out first-goal-scored stats and how often that team wins.

While the team that scores first wins a lot, so does the second goal-scorer, the third, the fourth and so on. Take last year's six-game Stanley Cup final, for example. Here are the win-loss records for each of the first seven goals (the win-loss record doesn't add up to six for each goal, as not every game had seven goals scored in it):

GOAL	WIN	LOSS
1	3	3
2	4	2
3	5	1
4	5	0
5	3	2
6	0	5
7	3	1

FANTASY

HOCKEY

CONNOR HELLEBUYCK

It's usually a better outcome for the first-goal scorer, but you get the idea. A winning team is going to have a better record in any goal slot, and it's unlikely they are going to start talking about that magical fourth goal.

GOALIE MANAGEMENT

Grant Fuhr once played 79 games in an 82-game season. It didn't seem to bother him much. Mind you, his coach was Mike Keenan, who was known for doing unorthodox things.

Only one goalie made it to 60 games last season, compared to five the previous year. Part of that, of course, was due to the condensed schedule and resting goalies more often.

Several teams split goalie tasks three ways, but only Buffalo appeared to do it on purpose, with Alex Lyon and Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen each starting 34 games and Colten Ellis starting 14. It stands to reason that if goalies play less, they will get injured less often and be available when they're needed most.

If you don't have Andrei Vasilevskiy, Connor Hellebuyck or Igor Shesterkin, why not split the duties more evenly and use the hottest one when it counts?

But if a team has a clear No. 1, they're still going to play close to 60 games if they're healthy.

There are also new rules regarding EBUGs this season. They're now required to travel with the team and can participate in practices, thereby giving starters more rest.

So grab the elite goalies early. If you don't get an elite goalie who plays a lot, you're going to get a good goalie who doesn't play enough.

COLLEGE VS. JUNIOR

School's not out on the ruling that allowed major-junior players to move to the NCAA, as it's still relatively new.

Gavin McKenna was the test case, and at first, it was declared a disaster by some. The elite Canadian was suiting up against older, stronger players and wasn't dominating like he was in the WHL. But McKenna eventually put an end to that type of thinking, finishing fifth in the NCAA in points and second in points per game. Porter Martone, Philadelphia's sixth-overall pick in 2025, went the same route and had no problems, finishing with 50 points in 35 games, just one behind McKenna's total.

You could conclude that if you're good, you're good no matter where you're playing. Would McKenna and Martone have been just as well off to dominate in major junior? We'll never know.

It's going to be an ongoing debate about which route is best for a player's development, and it will take some time to find the answer – if there is one.

SAVE PERCENTAGE

Since 1996-97, the average save percentage in the NHL has been above .900 and reached .915 in 2014-15 and 2015-16. Last season, however, it was just .896.

It used to be that if a goaltender had a save percentage of .920 or above, we considered him elite. Now? If he's over .900, he's pretty good.

It's not as if goalies aren't as good as they were 10 years ago. The goals-per-game rate hasn't changed much over the past five years, and neither has the majority of the other major stats. The one outlier? Shots per game. Last season, the average was 27.6 shots per team per game, tied for the third-lowest since the stat began being recorded in 1955-56 and the lowest since 2001-02.

For fantasy players, it's important to know the average save percentage when drafting netminders. At one time, a .900 save percentage indicated a poor goalie, but now, it indicates a good one.

TEAM MANAGEMENT

It used to be that teams would wait until the year a player's contract was expiring and deal him at the trade deadline if they weren't going to make the playoffs. Now, it's earlier – as witnessed by the willingness of teams to deal star players last season.

Brady Tkachuk was in that territory and also asked to be traded, so Ottawa had to take what it could get or risk losing him for nothing. Quinn Hughes did the same thing in Vancouver.

DARREN RADDYSH

The lack of high-end UFAs available July 1 is an indication GMs aren't risking getting nothing for a player on an expiring deal. For example, one of the top UFAs was Darren Raddysh, and Tampa Bay felt it was better off getting something for him, so the team made a deal with Toronto to execute a sign-and-trade for a fifth-round pick before free agency opened. The same happened to Alex Tuch, with Buffalo signing him and dealing him to Washington.

As for marquee players who want to be traded, it's more to the player's advantage now. Many have no-trade clauses, allowing them to choose where they want to play.

HELLEBUYCK: BOB FRID-IMAGN IMAGES; RADDYSH: SERGEI BELSKI-IMAGN IMAGES

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FANTASY HOCKEY

20 Questions

Members of The Hockey News' editorial team answer 20 key questions for the '26-27 season

RYAN KENNEDY
EDITOR IN CHIEF

EDWARD FRASER
MANAGING EDITOR

1	How many points for Connor McDavid in 2026-27?	110	125
2	How many points for Macklin Celebrini in 2026-27?	120	119
3	How many goals for Nathan MacKinnon in 2026-27?	50	55
4	Who scores more goals in 2026-27: Cole Caufield, Jason Robertson or Kirill Kaprizov?	Kirill Kaprizov	Kirill Kaprizov
5	Who scores more points in 2026-27: Nikita Kucherov, Nathan MacKinnon or Connor McDavid?	Nikita Kucherov	Nathan MacKinnon
6	Which defenseman puts up more points in 2026-27: Evan Bouchard, Cale Makar or Zach Werenski?	Cale Makar	Cale Makar
7	Which defenseman puts up more points in 2026-27: Lane Hutson, Rasmus Dahlin or Quinn Hughes?	Quinn Hughes	Quinn Hughes
8	Which rookie will lead all NHL freshmen in points?	Porter Martone	Gavin McKenna
9	Who gets more points in 2026-27, Gavin McKenna or Ivar Stenberg?	Gavin McKenna	Gavin McKenna
10	Who's your bust pick?	Boone Jenner	Mika Zibanejad
11	Who's your sleeper pick?	Jimmy Snuggerud	Pierre-Luc Dubois
12	Which goalie will win the Vezina in 2026-27?	Connor Hellebuyck	Logan Thompson
13	Which goalie gets more shutouts in 2026-27: Ilya Sorokin, Andrei Vasilevskiy or Connor Hellebuyck?	Ilya Sorokin	Connor Hellebuyck
14	Which NHL team wins the Presidents' Trophy in 2026-27?	Colorado	Colorado
15	Who is the first coach fired in 2026-27?	Andrew Brunette	Sheldon Keefe
16	Who are your top three teams in 2026-27?	Colorado, Florida, Minnesota	Colorado, Dallas, Washington
17	Who are your bottom three teams in 2026-27?	Chicago, Calgary, Vancouver	Calgary, Vancouver, NY Rangers
18	Which post-season team is most likely to miss the playoffs in 2026-27?	Ottawa	Ottawa
19	Who beats whom in the 2027 Stanley Cup final?	Colorado beats Florida	Colorado beats Montreal
20	Who's the next team to win the Stanley Cup for the first time?	San Jose	San Jose

MICHAEL TRAIKOS
MANAGING EDITOR (DIGITAL)

NICK EMANUELLI
SENIOR EDITOR

BRIAN COSTELLO
EDITOR

MATHIEU SHERIDAN
EDITOR

137	128	148	135
125	121	125	122
54	44	51	47
Kirill Kaprizov	Cole Caufield	Kirill Kaprizov	Cole Caufield
Nathan MacKinnon	Nikita Kucherov	Connor McDavid	Connor McDavid
Cale Makar	Cale Makar	Cale Makar	Cale Makar
Quinn Hughes	Quinn Hughes	Quinn Hughes	Quinn Hughes
Gavin McKenna	Anton Frondell	Anton Frondell	Porter Martone
Gavin McKenna	Gavin McKenna	Gavin McKenna	Gavin McKenna
Darren Raddysh	Matt Duchene	Drake Batherson	Ryan O'Reilly
Mason McTavish	Igor Chernyshov	Ryan Leonard	Anton Frondell
Jakub Dobes	Logan Thompson	Connor Hellebuyck	Andrei Vasilevskiy
Ilya Sorokin	Andrei Vasilevskiy	Andrei Vasilevskiy	Ilya Sorokin
Carolina	Carolina	Dallas	Colorado
Todd McLellan	Sheldon Keefe	Sheldon Keefe	Scott Arniel
Carolina, Florida, Dallas	Carolina, Colorado, Florida	Dallas, Carolina, Colorado	Colorado, Carolina, Florida
Chicago, Vancouver, Calgary	Vancouver, Calgary, Chicago	Vancouver, Chicago, Calgary	Chicago, Vancouver, Calgary
Ottawa	Boston	Ottawa	Los Angeles
Toronto beats Colorado	Colorado beats Florida	Dallas beats Carolina	Colorado beats Carolina
San Jose	Utah	Utah	Minnesota

CONNOR MCDAVID

PERRY NELSON-IMAGN IMAGES

FANTASY GUIDE

SKATERS

On the following pages, you'll find fantasy maven Murray Townsend's **POINT PROJECTIONS** for 300 key skaters for this season. The thresholds to be profiled are 40 points for forwards and 31 for defensemen. To help track who's been picked in your fantasy draft, use our checklist starting on pg. 210.

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83 SEBASTIAN AHO

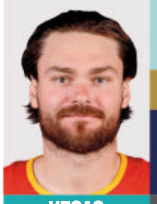
GP 80 G 31 A 52

CAROLINA

CAP HIT: $9,750,000

POS C **AGE** 29
2025-26 STATS
79-27-53-80-46

Five 30-goal seasons and three others that were close. Doesn't get much more consistent.



44 RASMUS ANDERSSON

GP 82 G 11 A 33

VEGAS

CAP HIT: $8,500,000

POS D **AGE** 29
2025-26 STATS
81-17-30-47-71

Doesn't put up monster stats, and he's not likely to score 17 again. Decent numbers though.

44 VIKTOR ARVIDSSON

GP 73 G 22 A 22

DETROIT

CAP HIT: $5,000,000

POS LW **AGE** 33
2025-26 STATS
69-25-29-54-24

He's all over the map, 33 and too injury prone to take too seriously. Don't bother.

40 MIKAEL BACKLUND

GP 84 G 15 A 25

CALGARY

CAP HIT: $3,250,000

POS C **AGE** 37
2025-26 STATS
82-17-26-43-16

Still getting it done at 37, so if you want a reliable 40-point scorer, he's your guy.

59 IVAN BARBASHEV

GP 83 G 25 A 34

VEGAS

CAP HIT: $5,000,000

POS C **AGE** 30
2025-26 STATS
82-23-38-61-14

Not a first-unit PP guy, but his 55 even-strength points tied for second on his Vegas squad.

80 ALEKSANDER BARKOV

GP 74 G 23 A 57

FLORIDA

CAP HIT: $10,000,000

POS C **AGE** 31
2025-26 STATS
DNP

Missed all of last season and parts of plenty others, but he's still worth the risk.

76 MATHEW BARZAL

GP 78 G 22 A 54

NY ISLANDERS

CAP HIT: $9,150,000

POS C **AGE** 29
2025-26 STATS
81-19-53-72-61

All over the map in terms of points and health. All things equal, pick someone less risky.

75 DRAKE BATHERSON

GP 82 G 35 A 40

OTTAWA

CAP HIT: $4,975,000

POS RW **AGE** 28
2025-26 STATS
79-33-38-71-33

Has set a new career-high in points seven seasons in a row. Let's go for eight.

71 CONNOR BEDARD

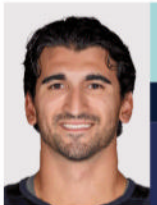
GP 62 G 30 A 41

CHICAGO

CAP HIT: $15,000,000

POS C **AGE** 21
2025-26 STATS
69-30-45-75-50

Shoulder surgery will keep him out of game action until sometime in November.



55 MATTY BENIERS

GP 81 G 22 A 33

SEATTLE

CAP HIT: $7,142,857

POS C **AGE** 23
2025-26 STATS
82-20-30-50-23

Isn't much of a scorer for a No. 1 center, but Seattle doesn't have much else.

49 SAM BENNETT

GP 77 G 23 A 26

FLORIDA

CAP HIT: $8,000,000

POS C **AGE** 30
2025-26 STATS
76-26-32-58-82

Could well play in the middle of the Tkachuks at even strength, but not on the PP.

58 ZACH BENSON

GP 77 G 20 A 38

BUFFALO

CAP HIT: $7,500,000

POS C **AGE** 21
2025-26 STATS
65-13-30-43-42

Point totals have come along slowly, but now in his fourth year, look for a nice raise.

43 TYLER BERTUZZI

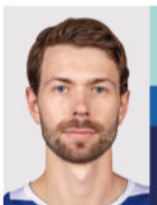
GP 78 G 21 A 22

CHICAGO

CAP HIT: $5,500,000

POS LW **AGE** 31
2025-26 STATS
79-32-26-58-42

He had a career season in goals (32), but he won't repeat. His range is low 20s.



42 OLIVER BJORKSTRAND

GP 80 G 17 A 25

NY RANGERS

CAP HIT: $4,500,000

POS RW **AGE** 31
2025-26 STATS
80-12-20-32-16

A good situation and team will help. It wasn't in TB, where he had three even-strength goals.

55 JACKSON BLAKE

GP 82 G 25 A 30

CAROLINA

CAP HIT: $5,117,002

POS RW **AGE** 23
2025-26 STATS
81-22-31-53-40

Formed a nice trio with Stankoven and Hall in the playoffs. Good second line.

SKATERS

BOESER - CAUFIELD

47

GP 77 G 23 A 24

BROCK
BOESER

VANCOUVER

CAP HIT: $7,250,000

POS RW **AGE** 29
2025-26 STATS
75-22-26-48-8

He's had one 40-goal year and six more with 20-plus. Pretty good shot he hits 20 again.

87

GP 80 G 38 A 49

MATT
BOLDY

MINNESOTA

CAP HIT: $7,000,000

POS LW **AGE** 25
2025-26 STATS
76-42-43-85-30

His points have improved every year. How about one more before topping out?

105

GP 84 G 25 A 80

EVAN
BOUCHARD

EDMONTON

CAP HIT: $10,500,000

POS D **AGE** 26
2025-26 STATS
82-21-74-95-30

He can and should be part of the 100-point club. He had 58 in last season's second half.

50

GP 83 G 25 A 25

MAVRIK
BOURQUE

NASHVILLE

CAP HIT: $5,500,000

POS C **AGE** 24
2025-26 STATS
82-20-21-41-22

He was impressive in the second half (14-14-28) after going 6-7-13 in the first.

83

GP 84 G 25 A 58

JESPER
BRATT

NEW JERSEY

CAP HIT: $7,875,000

POS LW **AGE** 28
2025-26 STATS
82-22-49-71-12

One of only 12 players who have had at least 70 points in each of the past five seasons.

34

GP 79 G 7 A 27

PHILIP
BROBERG

ST. LOUIS

CAP HIT: $8,000,000

POS D **AGE** 25
2025-26 STATS
81-6-28-34-16

Nothing spectacular, but he brings offense to the table, and at 25, there's upside.

52

GP 71 G 20 A 32

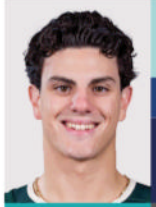
PAVEL
BUCHNEVICH

ST. LOUIS

CAP HIT: $8,000,000

POS LW **AGE** 31
2025-26 STATS
81-20-28-48-26

Still getting his 20 goals per season, but it's becoming less of a sure thing.



34

GP 79 G 8 A 26

ZEEV
BUIUM

VANCOUVER

CAP HIT: $966,667

POS D **AGE** 20
2025-26 STATS
76-6-20-26-41

Future big scorer, but for now, look for progression at a slower pace.

43

GP 84 G 10 A 33

BRENT
BURNS

COLORADO

CAP HIT: $850,000

POS D **AGE** 41
2025-26 STATS
82-12-23-35-32

If he plays in the first 58 games, he passes Phil Kessel for most consecutive all-time.

68

GP 81 G 35 A 33

QUINTON
BYFIELD

LOS ANGELES

CAP HIT: $6,250,000

POS C **AGE** 24
2025-26 STATS
79-24-25-49-46

In 26 games after Panarin joined the Kings, Byfield had 13 goals. Had 11 in his other 53.

59

GP 83 G 17 A 42

BOWEN
BYRAM

CHICAGO

CAP HIT: $6,250,000

POS D **AGE** 25
2025-26 STATS
82-11-31-42-48

Finally out of Makar and Dahlin's shadows, he's the man now on the PP. Watch out.

45

GP 75 G 10 A 35

JOHN
CARLSON

TAMPA BAY

CAP HIT: $8,500,000

POS D **AGE** 36
2025-26 STATS
71-14-46-60-32

Tread lightly. He's still getting it done and still mans the power play, but he's 36.

76

GP 75 G 33 A 43

LEO
CARLSSON

ANAHEIM

CAP HIT: $18,000,000

POS C **AGE** 21
2025-26 STATS
70-29-38-67-33

He's carved in stone as the Ducks' No. 1 center at even strength and on the PP.

44

GP 80 G 17 A 27

NOAH
CATES

PHILADELPHIA

CAP HIT: $4,000,000

POS LW **AGE** 27
2025-26 STATS
82-18-29-47-44

Middle-six center can attribute his uptick in points to an increase of scoring teammates.

87

GP 83 G 45 A 42

COLE
CAUFIELD

MONTREAL

CAP HIT: $7,850,000

POS RW **AGE** 25
2025-26 STATS
81-51-37-88-14

Scoring 50 goals isn't easy, especially two years in a row. Tone it down slightly.

124
GP 82 G 52 A 72

MACKLIN CELEBRINI
SAN JOSE | CAP HIT: $975,000

POS C **AGE** 20
2025-26 STATS
82-45-70-115-44

Incredible sophomore season will be difficult to match – only because it was so great.

43
GP 74 G 10 A 33

THOMAS CHABOT
OTTAWA | CAP HIT: $8,000,000

POS D **AGE** 29
2025-26 STATS
57-7-24-31-22

He's a constant injury concern but good scorer despite only second-unit power-play time.

42
GP 75 G 16 A 26

IGOR CHERNYSHOV
SAN JOSE | CAP HIT: $945,417

POS LW **AGE** 20
2025-26 STATS
28-9-10-19-6

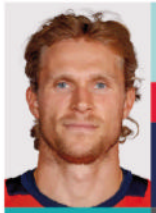
Great late-round risk/reward pick because he might play with Celebrini. Also might not.

45
GP 78 G 24 A 21

EGOR CHINAKHOV
PITTSBURGH | CAP HIT: $6,250,000

POS RW **AGE** 25
2025-26 STATS
72-21-21-42-10

Great after trade – as traded players often are – but terrible before. Worrisome.

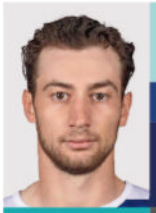


60
GP 81 G 25 A 35

JAKOB CHYCHRUN
WASHINGTON | CAP HIT: $9,000,000

POS D **AGE** 28
2025-26 STATS
80-26-34-60-62

Not big on assists, but in past three seasons, only Makar (71) has more than his 60 'D' goals.



59
GP 78 G 26 A 33

ANTHONY CIRELLI
TAMPA BAY | CAP HIT: $6,250,000

POS C **AGE** 29
2025-26 STATS
71-23-29-52-48

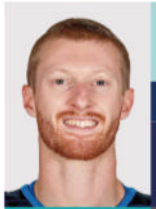
Top-six role in Tampa Bay is a good gig, even though he doesn't get first-unit PP time.

52
GP 81 G 12 A 40

BRANDT CLARKE
LOS ANGELES | CAP HIT: $7,400,000

POS D **AGE** 23
2025-26 STATS
82-8-32-40-63

He's the man now on the power-play point in L.A., taking over from Doughty.



96
GP 84 G 41 A 55

KYLE CONNOR
WINNIPEG | CAP HIT: $12,000,000

POS LW **AGE** 29
2025-26 STATS
82-39-53-92-16

He shoots! He scores! One of the best, with 40 goals per 82 games over past five seasons.

68
GP 77 G 30 A 38

LOGAN COOLEY
UTAH | CAP HIT: $10,000,000

POS C **AGE** 22
2025-26 STATS
54-24-19-43-28

One of the Mammoth's young guns still has another level before he peaks.

58
GP 79 G 26 A 32

MATT CORONATO
CALGARY | CAP HIT: $6,500,000

POS RW **AGE** 23
2025-26 STATS
80-18-27-45-32

Some scoreless streaks but makes up for it. More to come with improved consistency.

47
GP 82 G 17 A 30

EASTON COWAN
TORONTO | CAP HIT: $900,000

POS RW **AGE** 21
2025-26 STATS
66-11-18-29-45

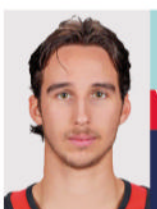
Fifth in scoring for Toronto after the Olympic break. Slated for a career in top six.

44
GP 84 G 16 A 28

CHARLIE COYLE
COLUMBUS | CAP HIT: $6,000,000

POS C **AGE** 34
2025-26 STATS
82-20-38-58-14

Has played 411 consecutive games. Coming off big year but always reverts to norm.



61
GP 83 G 30 A 31

DYLAN COZENS
OTTAWA | CAP HIT: $7,100,000

POS C **AGE** 25
2025-26 STATS
82-28-31-59-59

Second-line center gets first-unit power-play time, where he scored 13 of his 28 goals.

88
GP 81 G 33 A 55

SIDNEY CROSBY
PITTSBURGH | CAP HIT: $8,700,000

POS C **AGE** 39
2025-26 STATS
68-29-45-74-44

Pay no heed to his birth certificate. He's a specimen like few others in NHL history.

40
GP 83 G 20 A 20

LAWSON CROUSE
UTAH | CAP HIT: $4,300,000

POS LW **AGE** 29
2025-26 STATS
81-24-20-44-46

Bounced back to his normal 20-20 level after an abnormally terrible season.

SKATERS

CUYLLE - DUCHENE

42

GP 84 G 20 A 22

WILL CUYLLE

NY RANGERS

CAP HIT: $3,900,000

POS LW **AGE** 24
2025-26 STATS
82-20-18-38-65

Slowed considerably in the second half (from 23 points to 15), so he may have been tired.

40

GP 70 G 14 A 26

KIRBY DACH

MONTREAL

CAP HIT: $3,600,000

POS C **AGE** 25
2025-26 STATS
37-8-7-15-31

A persistent disappointment – scoring and injuries – but he's 25, and there's still hope.

87

GP 79 G 30 A 57

RASMUS DAHLIN

BUFFALO

CAP HIT: $11,000,000

POS D **AGE** 26
2025-26 STATS
77-19-55-74-76

Coming off a career-high in points in his eighth NHL season, and he's still only 26.

34

GP 79 G 6 A 28

TONY DEANGELO

NY ISLANDERS

CAP HIT: $4,500,000

POS D **AGE** 30
2025-26 STATS
76-5-30-35-43

Reinvented a nicer version of himself, and it has worked out nicely so far for him and Isles.

75

GP 84 G 38 A 37

ALEX DEBRINCAT

DETROIT

CAP HIT: $7,875,000

POS RW **AGE** 28
2025-26 STATS
82-41-44-85-19

There were just 10 players getting 40-40 last season in the NHL, and he was one of them.

50

GP 82 G 25 A 25

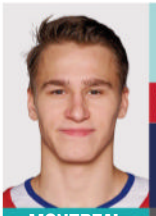
JAKE DEBRUSK

VANCOUVER

CAP HIT: $5,500,000

POS LW **AGE** 29
2025-26 STATS
81-23-19-42-12

The good news: third in NHL with 19 power-play goals. The bad news: three 5-on-5 goals.



73

GP 83 G 28 A 45

IVAN DEMIDOV

MONTREAL

CAP HIT: $940,833

POS RW **AGE** 20
2025-26 STATS
82-19-43-62-34

Calder finalist hit a wall, but he's not a rookie anymore, and his goals will go up – and up.

31

GP 78 G 5 A 26

SAM DICKINSON

SAN JOSE

CAP HIT: $953,750

POS D **AGE** 20
2025-26 STATS
72-1-13-14-22

In his second OHL season, he went from 23 to 70 points, so he adjusts well over time.

50

GP 80 G 25 A 25

JOSH DOAN

BUFFALO

CAP HIT: $6,950,000

POS RW **AGE** 24
2025-26 STATS
82-25-27-52-25

One of last year's biggest surprises came in trade from Utah. Son of Shane Doan.

41

GP 81 G 10 A 31

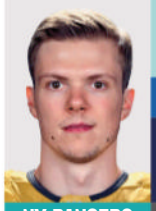
NOAH DOBSON

MONTREAL

CAP HIT: $9,500,000

POS D **AGE** 26
2025-26 STATS
80-12-35-47-34

Being a second-banana D-man hurts his points, but he's a very good second banana.



65

GP 84 G 35 A 30

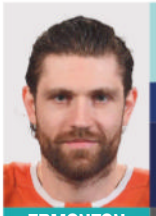
PAVEL DOROFEYEV

NY RANGERS

CAP HIT: $11,000,000

POS LW **AGE** 25
2025-26 STATS
82-37-27-64-24

More power-play goals (20) than even (17) is odd, but they all count on the scoreboard.



118

GP 77 G 51 A 67

LEON DRAISAITL

EDMONTON

CAP HIT: $14,000,000

POS C **AGE** 30
2025-26 STATS
65-35-62-97-26

Injuries stopped him from his seventh 100-point season, but he's right back there this year.

42

GP 81 G 10 A 32

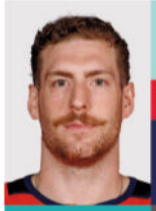
JAMIE DRYSDALE

PHILADELPHIA

CAP HIT: $6,500,000

POS D **AGE** 24
2025-26 STATS
78-8-24-32-33

If he figures out the PP, he could have a nice point increase. 'If' is the key word.



55

GP 80 G 20 A 35

PIERRE-LUC DUBOIS

WASHINGTON

CAP HIT: $8,500,000

POS C **AGE** 28
2025-26 STATS
29-5-14-19-19

Good under-the-radar pick because he only played 29 games last season.

63

GP 75 G 25 A 38

MATT DUCHENE

DALLAS

CAP HIT: $4,500,000

POS C **AGE** 35
2025-26 STATS
57-16-29-45-8

All over the map. If you take him late, it's a good deal. Too early, it's a bad deal.

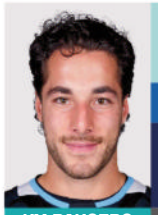
46
GP 79 G 11 A 35

VINCE DUNN

SEATTLE | CAP HIT: $7,350,000

POS D **AGE** 29
2025-26 STATS
81-11-33-44-54

A fixture on the power-play point on a team that doesn't score a lot of goals.



41
GP 72 G 8 A 33

SEAN DURZI

NY RANGERS | CAP HIT: $6,000,000

POS D **AGE** 27
2025-26 STATS
60-5-22-27-50

Hampered by injuries. A fresh start and second-unit PP duty will get him back on track.

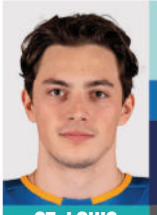
40
GP 81 G 15 A 25

CHRISTIAN DVORAK

PHILADELPHIA | CAP HIT: $5,150,000

POS C **AGE** 30
2025-26 STATS
80-18-33-51-27

Such a good year after so many with worse stats is suspect. Don't look for a repeat.



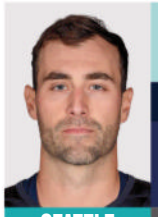
40
GP 79 G 18 A 22

DALIBOR DVORSKY

ST. LOUIS | CAP HIT: $909,166

POS C **AGE** 21
2025-26 STATS
71-12-9-21-26

After a nice intro, he could move up as high as second-line center in his second year.



46
GP 79 G 22 A 24

JORDAN EBERLE

SEATTLE | CAP HIT: $5,500,000

POS RW **AGE** 36
2025-26 STATS
80-26-29-55-28

The Kraken extended him for two more years, and, at 36, he's still getting it done.

72
GP 83 G 28 A 44

NIKOLAJ EHLERS

CAROLINA | CAP HIT: $8,500,000

POS LW **AGE** 30
2025-26 STATS
82-26-45-71-14

Set a career high in points in his first year in Carolina in 11th season. He's a very good fit.

90
GP 78 G 30 A 60

JACK EICHEL

VEGAS | CAP HIT: $13,500,000

POS C **AGE** 29
2025-26 STATS
74-27-63-90-18

Consecutive 90-point seasons outweigh the injury concerns to make him a fantasy stud.

37
GP 72 G 7 A 30

AARON EKBLAD

FLORIDA | CAP HIT: $6,100,000

POS D **AGE** 30
2025-26 STATS
72-4-22-26-55

With scoring stars returning from injuries, he'll improve from a very weak season.

39
GP 76 G 6 A 33

MATTIAS EKHOLM

EDMONTON | CAP HIT: $4,000,000

POS D **AGE** 36
2025-26 STATS
82-6-35-41-30

At 36, he hasn't shown any signs of slowing down and played all 82 games last year.

63
GP 81 G 22 A 41

WILLIAM EKLUND

OTTAWA | CAP HIT: $5,600,000

POS RW **AGE** 23
2025-26 STATS
78-15-38-53-32

Basically replaces Brady Tkachuk but is more of a playmaker than goal-scorer.

32
GP 78 G 6 A 26

OLIVER EKMAN-LARSSON

TORONTO | CAP HIT: $3,500,000

POS D **AGE** 35
2025-26 STATS
78-8-31-39-70

Scored and played well above expectations last year. At 35, his points won't increase.

60
GP 77 G 25 A 35

JOEL ERIKSSON EK

MINNESOTA | CAP HIT: $5,250,000

POS C **AGE** 29
2025-26 STATS
70-19-32-51-32

Such a good player, but injury woes and fluctuating offense are concerns in fantasy.

56
GP 81 G 15 A 41

LUKE EVANGELISTA

NASHVILLE | CAP HIT: $3,000,000

POS RW **AGE** 24
2025-26 STATS
81-12-44-56-28

More of a playmaker than a goal-scorer, and he spends a lot of time with goal-scorers.

47
GP 81 G 12 A 35

BROCK FABER

MINNESOTA | CAP HIT: $8,500,000

POS D **AGE** 24
2025-26 STATS
80-15-36-51-39

Points should have suffered after Hughes' arrival. Nope – 36 in 48 after. 15 in 32 before.

78
GP 84 G 35 A 43

ADAM FANTILLI

COLUMBUS | CAP HIT: RFA

POS C **AGE** 21
2025-26 STATS
82-24-35-59-38

It's not unusual for young players to take a step back before a giant leap forward.

SKATERS

FARABEE – GIROUX

41

GP 84 G 21 A 20

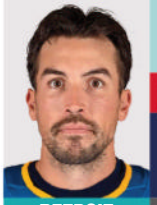
JOEL
FARABEE

CALGARY

CAP HIT: $5,000,000

POS LW **AGE** 26
2025-26 STATS
82-20-18-38-28

Twenty goals for a two-way forward is good, but he has little upside for our purposes.



34

GP 80 G 11 A 23

JUSTIN
FAULK

DETROIT

CAP HIT: $6,500,000

POS D **AGE** 34
2025-26 STATS
78-16-24-40-42

Only second-unit power-play time, but he's reached double digits in goals seven times.

65

GP 78 G 25 A 40

KEVIN
FIALA

LOS ANGELES

CAP HIT: $7,875,000

POS LW **AGE** 30
2025-26 STATS
56-18-22-40-34

A broken leg at the Olympics ended last season, but he'll be back for the start of this one.

47

GP 78 G 27 A 20

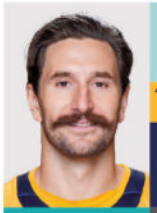
TYSON
FOERSTER

PHILADELPHIA

CAP HIT: $3,750,000

POS RW **AGE** 24
2025-26 STATS
29-13-4-17-22

Missed 53 games last year, so he comes in under the radar. More goals than assists.



77

GP 82 G 35 A 42

FILIP
FORSBERG

NASHVILLE

CAP HIT: $8,500,000

POS LW **AGE** 32
2025-26 STATS
82-40-35-75-34

Formerly injury-prone. Hasn't missed a game in three years, averaging 40 goals per season.

36

GP 82 G 10 A 26

GUSTAV
FORSLING

FLORIDA

CAP HIT: $5,750,000

POS D **AGE** 30
2025-26 STATS
80-2-26-28-51

He hit double figures in goals for four straight years, so look for a return to that mark.

62

GP 77 G 11 A 51

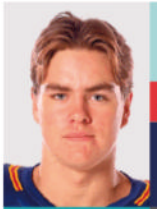
ADAM
FOX

NY RANGERS

CAP HIT: $9,500,000

POS D **AGE** 28
2025-26 STATS
55-9-44-53-20

Power-play quarterback was at a point-a-game pace after the Olympic break.



57

GP 79 G 25 A 32

ANTON
FRONDELL

CHICAGO

CAP HIT: $986,250

POS C **AGE** 19
2025-26 SHL STATS
43-20-8-28-16

He was in the top six as a rookie, should be on PP and could play with Bedard. Bingo.

52

GP 83 G 24 A 28

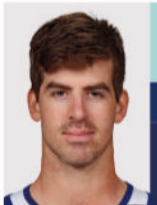
MORGAN
FROST

CALGARY

CAP HIT: $4,375,000

POS C **AGE** 27
2025-26 STATS
82-22-21-43-28

Yet to crack the 50-point mark, but he is a big part of offense and power play in Calgary.



43

GP 82 G 18 A 25

CONOR
GARLAND

COLUMBUS

CAP HIT: $6,000,000

POS RW **AGE** 30
2025-26 STATS
71-12-21-33-34

In a good year, he'll get you 20 goals and 50 points, but there's not many of those left.

80

GP 79 G 45 A 35

CUTTER
GAUTHIER

ANAHEIM

CAP HIT: RFA

POS LW **AGE** 22
2025-26 STATS
76-41-28-69-28

Still has high upside. Shoots the puck so often there's 50-goal potential there.

34

GP 83 G 12 A 22

VLADISLAV
GAVRIKOV

NY RANGERS

CAP HIT: $7,000,000

POS D **AGE** 30
2025-26 STATS
82-14-21-35-50

Shutdown defender makes a surprisingly good offensive contribution with goals.

40

GP 75 G 14 A 26

CONOR
GEEKIE

TAMPA BAY

CAP HIT: $886,666

POS C **AGE** 22
2025-26 AHL STATS
57-17-42-59-60

He's coming along slowly, but, at some point, there's going to be an explosion.

60

GP 82 G 35 A 25

MORGAN
GEEKIE

BOSTON

CAP HIT: $5,500,000

POS C **AGE** 28
2025-26 STATS
81-39-29-68-22

He didn't even score like this in major junior. Whatever magic there is, he found it.

45

GP 84 G 15 A 30

CLAUDE
GIROUX

OTTAWA

CAP HIT: $2,000,000

POS RW **AGE** 38
2025-26 STATS
82-14-35-49-22

At 38, his offense is dropping. But there's still some there, and he rarely misses a game.

60
GP 78 G 15 A 45

SHAYNE GOSTISBEHERE
CAROLINA | CAP HIT: $3,200,000

POS D **AGE** 33
2025-26 STATS
55-13-37-50-22

Power-play D-man would have set career highs last year but was injured. This is the year.

41
GP 80 G 18 A 23

COLLIN GRAF
SAN JOSE | CAP HIT: $4,250,000

POS RW **AGE** 24
2025-26 STATS
81-21-25-46-12

Undrafted success story played a lot with Celebrini, but no guarantee that continues.

56
GP 77 G 17 A 39

MIKAEL GRANLUND
ANAHEIM | CAP HIT: $7,000,000

POS C **AGE** 34
2025-26 STATS
58-19-22-41-18

When not injured, he's good for about 60 points. Nice numbers for a second-line center.

45
GP 81 G 18 A 27

MATVEI GRIDIN
CALGARY | CAP HIT: $953,750

POS RW **AGE** 20
2025-26 STATS
37-6-14-20-2

He's on his way up and is still under the radar, so he's a good spec pick.

42
GP 76 G 18 A 24

ARSENY GRITSYUK
NEW JERSEY | CAP HIT: $3,250,000

POS RW **AGE** 25
2025-26 STATS
66-13-18-31-26

A decent rookie season involved long scoring droughts. More consistency in Year 2.

80
GP 80 G 47 A 33

DYLAN GUENTHER
UTAH | CAP HIT: $7,142,875

POS RW **AGE** 23
2025-26 STATS
79-40-33-73-28

There's a 50-goal season in there. Maybe not this year – but soon.

88
GP 82 G 40 A 48

JAKE GUENTZEL
TAMPA BAY | CAP HIT: $9,000,000

POS RW **AGE** 31
2025-26 STATS
81-38-50-88-61

Gets to play with Kucherov on the power play but gets most of his ES points without him.

81
GP 82 G 36 A 45

BRANDON HAGEL
TAMPA BAY | CAP HIT: $6,500,000

POS LW **AGE** 28
2025-26 STATS
71-36-38-74-58

What if you were having a hockey dream and woke up on Kucherov's line? That's Hagel.

48
GP 73 G 18 A 30

TAYLOR HALL
CAROLINA | CAP HIT: $3,166,667

POS LW **AGE** 34
2025-26 STATS
80-18-30-48-44

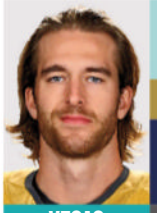
Injury prone and inconsistent. Coming off a good year. Can he finally have two in a row?

41
GP 74 G 10 A 31

DOUGIE HAMILTON
NEW JERSEY | CAP HIT: $9,000,000

POS D **AGE** 33
2025-26 STATS
77-12-27-39-50

Surprising that he's passed 50 points just once. He's steady around the 40-point mark.



33
GP 80 G 7 A 26

NOAH HANIFIN
VEGAS | CAP HIT: $7,350,000

POS D **AGE** 29
2025-26 STATS
71-3-25-28-14

Not much power-play time but manages to put up decent numbers at even strength.

48
GP 77 G 12 A 36

THOMAS HARLEY
DALLAS | CAP HIT: $10,587,000

POS D **AGE** 25
2025-26 STATS
70-6-30-36-26

Good even-strength scorer. But doesn't get much PP time due to Heiskanen's presence.

55
GP 72 G 10 A 45

VICTOR HEDMAN
TAMPA BAY | CAP HIT: $8,000,000

POS D **AGE** 35
2025-26 STATS
33-1-16-17-10

A bust or must. Last year, he had availability issues, but a comeback is very possible.

67
GP 76 G 12 A 55

MIRO HEISKANEN
DALLAS | CAP HIT: $8,450,000

POS D **AGE** 27
2025-26 STATS
77-9-54-63-30

With the kind of firepower up front in Dallas, this power-play pointman can't lose.

42
GP 78 G 14 A 28

KONSTA HELENIUS
BUFFALO | CAP HIT: $953,750

POS C **AGE** 20
2025-26 AHL STATS
63-21-42-63-22

It's his time, and he could be as high as Buffalo's second-line center. Keep an eye on it.

SKATERS

HERTL - HYMAN

63

GP 81 G 28 A 35

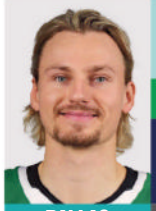
TOMAS HERTL

VEGAS

CAP HIT: $8,137,500

POS C **AGE** 32
2025-26 STATS
82-24-34-58-39

First-unit power play and top-six time in Vegas are conducive to very good numbers.



67

GP 77 G 25 A 42

ROOPE HINTZ

DALLAS

CAP HIT: $8,450,000

POS C **AGE** 29
2025-26 STATS
53-15-29-44-18

If not for injuries, he would have been in his usual 65-75 range. Back where he belongs.

68

GP 82 G 33 A 35

NICO HISCHIER

NEW JERSEY

CAP HIT: $7,250,000

POS C **AGE** 27
2025-26 STATS
82-28-38-66-29

The past two seasons, he's become more adept at PP goals (25) than previously.

75

GP 79 G 35 A 40

DYLAN HOLLOWAY

ST. LOUIS

CAP HIT: $7,750,000

POS C **AGE** 25
2025-26 STATS
59-22-29-51-20

The Blues' power play has to be better this year, and he will be scoring more goals on it.

48

GP 80 G 22 A 26

SIMON HOLMSTROM

NY ISLANDERS

CAP HIT: $3,625,000

POS RW **AGE** 25
2025-26 STATS
79-19-22-41-16

All mediocre numbers so far. Upside potential is there for him, but it's very minimal.

65

GP 80 G 32 A 33

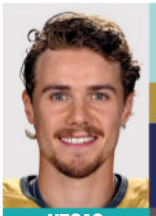
BO HORVAT

NY ISLANDERS

CAP HIT: $8,500,000

POS C **AGE** 31
2025-26 STATS
68-31-26-57-40

No real highs or lows. He's dependable around the 30-30 mark each season.



43

GP 80 G 25 A 18

BRETT HOWDEN

VEGAS

CAP HIT: $2,500,000

POS C **AGE** 28
2025-26 STATS
58-12-10-22-41

More goals in playoffs than regular season. Needs to play on Marner's line this year.

61

GP 82 G 12 A 49

FILIP HRONEK

VANCOUVER

CAP HIT: $7,250,000

POS D **AGE** 28
2025-26 STATS
82-8-41-49-33

He's not Quinn Hughes, but he had 33 points in 51 games after Hughes was traded.

62

GP 78 G 21 A 41

JONATHAN HUBERDEAU

CALGARY

CAP HIT: $10,500,000

POS C **AGE** 33
2025-26 STATS
50-10-15-25-41

Coming off hip surgery, he should return to Calgary (not Florida) form.

100

GP 75 G 35 A 65

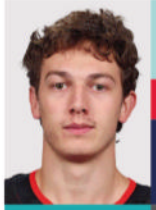
JACK HUGHES

NEW JERSEY

CAP HIT: $8,000,000

POS C **AGE** 25
2025-26 STATS
61-27-50-77-10

Is injury prone and can't score the big goals. Just kidding... about one of those.



44

GP 82 G 8 A 36

LUKE HUGHES

NEW JERSEY

CAP HIT: $9,000,000

POS D **AGE** 23
2025-26 STATS
68-6-29-35-32

Gets a lot of power-play time, but his point totals are not Quinn-like.

83

GP 82 G 12 A 71

QUINN HUGHES

MINNESOTA

CAP HIT: $7,850,000

POS D **AGE** 26
2025-26 STATS
74-7-69-76-32

With Boldy and Kaprizov up front, a point per game is a reasonable target.

50

GP 78 G 12 A 38

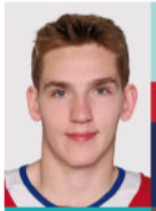
COLE HUTSON

WASHINGTON

CAP HIT: $952,083

POS D **AGE** 20
'25-26 NCAA STATS
35-10-22-32-26

Hutson brothers are instant hits. Cole (14 GP last year) could be sleeper of the year.



74

GP 84 G 11 A 63

LANE HUTSON

MONTREAL

CAP HIT: $8,850,000

POS D **AGE** 22
2025-26 STATS
82-12-66-78-34

Established in the upper echelon of offensive defensemen, where he'll stay for a while.

58

GP 78 G 35 A 23

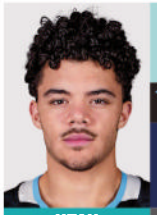
ZACH HYMAN

EDMONTON

CAP HIT: $5,500,000

POS LW **AGE** 34
2025-26 STATS
58-31-21-52-28

The one thing we know for sure is he's going to have at least one great linemate.



46

GP 78 G 25 A 21

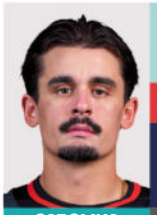
TIJ **IGINLA**

UTAH

CAP HIT: $941,667

POS C **AGE** 20
2025-26 WHL STATS
48-41-49-90-29

Natural scorer might not tear it up as a rookie. His dad didn't, but you never know.



48

GP 55 G 23 A 25

SETH **JARVIS**

CAROLINA

CAP HIT: $7,420,087

POS C **AGE** 24
2025-26 STATS
71-32-34-66-23

A consistent scorer, but he'll miss at least the first month of the season after surgery.

42

GP 69 G 20 A 22

BOONE **JENNER**

WASHINGTON

CAP HIT: $5,750,000

POS C **AGE** 33
2025-26 STATS
67-13-25-38-44

One of the league's most injury-prone, and even when healthy, he's not a big scorer.

47

GP 76 G 16 A 31

KENT **JOHNSON**

COLUMBUS

CAP HIT: $1,800,000

POS C **AGE** 23
2025-26 STATS
76-7-15-22-20

Excuses for poor season could fill a book, but the sequel will be about his comeback.

89

GP 84 G 46 A 43

WYATT **JOHNSTON**

DALLAS

CAP HIT: $8,400,000

POS C **AGE** 23
2025-26 STATS
82-45-41-86-32

Never missed an NHL game, and his goals and assists have improved every year.

36

GP 68 G 8 A 28

SETH **JONES**

FLORIDA

CAP HIT: $9,500,000

POS D **AGE** 31
2025-26 STATS
52-7-25-32-18

He's a good fit in Florida, but he's also become an ongoing injury concern.

61

GP 76 G 15 A 46

ROMAN **JOSI**

NASHVILLE

CAP HIT: $9,059,000

POS D **AGE** 36
2025-26 STATS
68-13-42-55-30

Remarkably reached double figures in goals 11 times. It will be 12 after this season.

60

GP 80 G 26 A 34

NAZEM **KADRI**

COLORADO

CAP HIT: $7,000,000

POS C **AGE** 35
2025-26 STATS
77-16-34-50-30

Slated as the third-line center but gets first-unit power-play time for powerhouse Avs.

45

GP 71 G 15 A 30

KAAPO **KAKKO**

SEATTLE

CAP HIT: $4,525,000

POS RW **AGE** 25
2025-26 STATS
65-13-27-40-14

Was 9-17-26 in Seattle's second half after being a frequent healthy scratch. Maybe?

55

GP 73 G 20 A 35

PATRICK **KANE**

CHICAGO

CAP HIT: $8,000,000

POS RW **AGE** 37
2025-26 STATS
67-16-41-57-16

Not the Patrick Kane of old but not as bad as the Patrick Kane of fairly new.

48

GP 80 G 22 A 26

ROMAN **KANTSEROV**

CHICAGO

CAP HIT: $1,075,000

POS RW **AGE** 22
2025-26 KHL STATS
63-36-28-64-57

Russian stars are a gamble, but the payoff is so high you want to take your chances.

97

GP 81 G 51 A 46

KIRILL **KAPRIZOV**

MINNESOTA

CAP HIT: $17,000,000

POS LW **AGE** 29
2025-26 STATS
78-45-44-89-28

The only way he could be better than he already is would be 50 goals, and it's coming.

59

GP 83 G 13 A 46

ERIK **KARLSSON**

PITTSBURGH

CAP HIT: $11,500,000

POS D **AGE** 36
2025-26 STATS
75-15-51-66-22

Yet another aging Penguin (36) who is playing as if he's 10 years younger.

45

GP 80 G 20 A 25

LINUS **KARLSSON**

VANCOUVER

CAP HIT: $2,250,000

POS C **AGE** 26
2025-26 STATS
79-15-20-35-42

Still some upside after first full NHL year and with good AHL history behind him.

46

GP 75 G 15 A 31

WILLIAM **KARLSSON**

VEGAS

CAP HIT: $5,900,000

POS C **AGE** 33
2025-26 STATS
14-4-3-7-4

Only 14 regular-season games but was back for the playoffs on a line with Marner.

SKATERS

KELLER – LANDESKOG

92

GP 83 G 31 A 61

CLAYTON KELLER

UTAH

CAP HIT: $7,150,000

POS RW **AGE** 28
2025-26 STATS
82-26-62-88-38

He boasts an 85-point average over the past four years and rarely misses a game.

71

GP 82 G 36 A 35

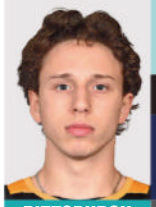
ADRIAN KEMPE

LOS ANGELES

CAP HIT: $10,625,000

POS RW **AGE** 30
2025-26 STATS
81-36-37-73-58

In four of the past five seasons, he's scored at least 35 goals. And he's just turned 30.



42

GP 81 G 19 A 23

BEN KINDEL

PITTSBURGH

CAP HIT: $986,250

POS C **AGE** 19
2025-26 STATS
77-17-18-35-18

Rookie shocker last year – playing, and playing so well. Third-line points for now.

31

GP 66 G 10 A 21

JOHN KLINGBERG

UFA

CAP HIT: UFA

POS D **AGE** 34
2025-26 STATS
56-10-17-27-24

If he lasts more than 50 games with a team, it's something. And if he does, he scores.

78

GP 80 G 32 A 46

MATTHEW KNIES

TORONTO

CAP HIT: $7,750,000

POS LW **AGE** 23
2025-26 STATS
79-23-43-66-29

A 30-goal season is coming – and maybe more for the power forward.

72

GP 81 G 30 A 42

TRAVIS KONECNY

PHILADELPHIA

CAP HIT: $8,750,000

POS RW **AGE** 29
2025-26 STATS
77-27-41-68-59

He's led Philadelphia in scoring five years in a row, and he's getting more help now.

32

GP 77 G 6 A 26

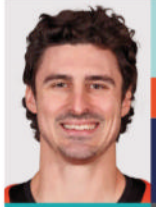
KEVIN KORCHINSKI

CHICAGO

CAP HIT: RFA

POS D **AGE** 22
2025-26 AHL STATS
53-2-24-26-48

If the light comes on, he's going to get power-play time. He's a decent spec pick.



42

GP 76 G 22 A 20

CHRIS KREIDER

ANAHEIM

CAP HIT: $6,500,000

POS LW **AGE** 35
2025-26 STATS
75-22-28-50-34

Favorable line assignments fuelled a nice comeback, but he's 35 and skating on thin ice.

131

GP 78 G 45 A 86

NIKITA KUCHEROV

TAMPA BAY

CAP HIT: $9,500,000

POS RW **AGE** 33
2025-26 STATS
76-44-86-130-50

One of the big three in your draft, along with McDavid and MacKinnon. Can't go wrong.

62

GP 81 G 30 A 32

JORDAN KYROU

WASHINGTON

CAP HIT: $8,125,000

POS C **AGE** 28
2025-26 STATS
72-18-28-46-8

Rebound with new team after poor season. Averaged 35 goals previous three years.

44

GP 80 G 10 A 34

JACKSON LACOMBE

ANAHEIM

CAP HIT: $9,000,000

POS D **AGE** 25
2025-26 STATS
82-10-48-58-19

Proved he wasn't a one-season wonder. If not on power play, he still scores at even strength.

43

GP 81 G 20 A 23

ALEX LAFERRIERE

LOS ANGELES

CAP HIT: $4,100,000

POS RW **AGE** 24
2025-26 STATS
82-21-23-44-18

Already got a lot of top-six time, and with Kopitar gone, he should get even more.

64

GP 84 G 27 A 37

ALEXIS LAFRENIERE

NY RANGERS

CAP HIT: $7,450,000

POS LW **AGE** 24
2025-26 STATS
82-24-33-57-20

Ramped it up to a point-a-game pace after Panarin trade. Could see a career high.

40

GP 65 G 16 A 24

PATRIK LAINE

UFA

CAP HIT: UFA

POS LW **AGE** 28
2025-26 STATS
5-0-1-1-2

We're assuming he's going to play 65 games, but that's a huge assumption.

45

GP 65 G 20 A 25

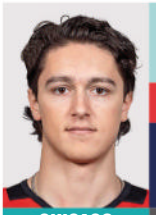
GABRIEL LANDESKOG

COLORADO

CAP HIT: $7,000,000

POS LW **AGE** 33
2025-26 STATS
60-14-21-35-47

He's back but has a long injury history, so unless he comes cheap, don't buy.



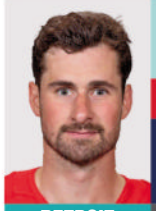
45
GP 80 G 27 A 18

NICK LARDIS

CHICAGO | CAP HIT: $925,000

POS LW **AGE** 21
2025-26 STATS
41-10-5-15-10

Pure goal-scorer could play on the top line or the third line. Super sleeper pick.



70
GP 76 G 32 A 38

DYLAN LARKIN

DETROIT | CAP HIT: $8,700,000

POS C **AGE** 30
2025-26 STATS
74-34-33-67-48

Doesn't deviate far from his established level in the 70-point range.

40
GP 84 G 20 A 20

ANDERS LEE

UTAH | CAP HIT: $5,400,000

POS LW **AGE** 36
2025-26 STATS
82-19-23-42-44

At 36, not much time left. But he rarely misses a game, and 20 goals is a realistic mark.

50
GP 70 G 20 A 30

ARTTURI LEHKONEN

COLORADO | CAP HIT: $4,500,000

POS LW **AGE** 31
2025-26 STATS
70-21-27-48-16

Misses a lot of games every year, but he is still good around the 50-point mark.

55
GP 82 G 25 A 30

RYAN LEONARD

WASHINGTON | CAP HIT: $950,000

POS RW **AGE** 21
2025-26 STATS
75-20-25-45-47

Rookie year included tying Ovi for team lead with 10 goals in 23 games after the break.

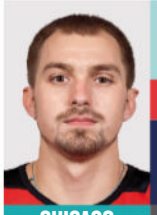
34
GP 76 G 4 A 30

KRIS LETANG

PITTSBURGH | CAP HIT: $6,100,000

POS D **AGE** 39
2025-26 STATS
74-3-31-34-38

Another ageless Penguin. Not so many goals anymore but is still kicking.



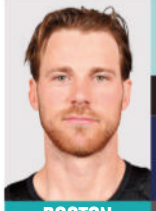
32
GP 78 G 5 A 27

ARTYOM LEVSHUNOV

CHICAGO | CAP HIT: $975,000

POS D **AGE** 20
2025-26 STATS
68-2-22-24-44

He's learning on the job. Not a great deal of offense yet but still contributes.



52
GP 80 G 18 A 34

ELIAS LINDHOLM

BOSTON | CAP HIT: $7,750,000

POS C **AGE** 31
2025-26 STATS
69-17-31-48-38

He's had some good seasons – but not lately. Not even good for 20 goals anymore.

40
GP 77 G 15 A 25

ANTON LUNDELL

FLORIDA | CAP HIT: $5,000,000

POS C **AGE** 24
2025-26 STATS
64-18-26-44-34

Two-way player played above his role with all Cats' injuries, so expect a return to norm.

40
GP 76 G 12 A 28

MATIAS MACCELLI

NY ISLANDERS | CAP HIT: $2,250,000

POS C **AGE** 25
2025-26 STATS
71-14-25-39-16

Frequent healthy scratch early last year. He was better after but not reliable for top six.

133
GP 81 G 50 A 83

NATHAN MACKINNON

COLORADO | CAP HIT: $12,604,000

POS C **AGE** 31
2025-26 STATS
80-53-74-127-39

We know it's going to be over 100 points and in top three. That's a pretty good start.

35
GP 78 G 12 A 23

LOGAN MAILLOUX

ST. LOUIS | CAP HIT: $850,000

POS D **AGE** 23
2025-26 STATS
67-5-8-13-48

He's due to break out, and when he does, he's going to score a lot of goals.

90
GP 80 G 25 A 65

CALE MAKAR

COLORADO | CAP HIT: $9,000,000

POS D **AGE** 27
2025-26 STATS
75-20-59-79-24

A down year for him means he doesn't get 90 points but is still a Norris finalist.

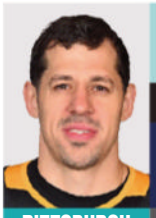
35
GP 80 G 5 A 30

SAM MALINSKI

COLORADO | CAP HIT: $4,750,000

POS D **AGE** 28
2025-26 STATS
82-8-32-40-22

Found his offense. Doesn't get power-play time, but his even-strength numbers are good.



68
GP 78 G 23 A 45

EVGENI MALKIN

PITTSBURGH | CAP HIT: $5,500,000

POS C **AGE** 40
2025-26 STATS
56-19-42-61-61

Back for another (last?) year at 40. If healthy, he's good for 20 goals in his sleep.

SKATERS

MANTHA - MCLEOD

41

GP 77 G 21 A 20

ANTHONY MANTHA

NEW JERSEY

CAP HIT: $4,750,000

POS RW **AGE** 32
2025-26 STATS
81-33-31-64-43

In his 11-year NHL career, he's had one good season – this past one. Don't be fooled.

64

GP 78 G 28 A 36

BRAD MARCHAND

FLORIDA

CAP HIT: $5,250,000

POS LW **AGE** 38
2025-26 STATS
52-27-27-54-38

He's 38, but he keeps getting it done, so you should keep picking him.

71

GP 80 G 25 A 46

KIRILL MARCHENKO

COLUMBUS

CAP HIT: $3,850,000

POS RW **AGE** 26
2025-26 STATS
76-27-40-67-32

Scoring line, power play and shoots the puck a lot. Everything you need.

40

GP 77 G 15 A 25

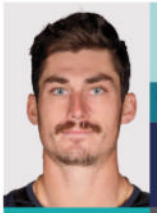
JONATHAN MARCHESSAULT

NASHVILLE

CAP HIT: $5,500,000

POS RW **AGE** 35
2025-26 STATS
62-12-19-31-30

Three years left on his contract – but not three years' worth of goals remaining.



47

GP 71 G 21 A 26

MASON MARCHMENT

SAN JOSE

CAP HIT: $6,750,000

POS LW **AGE** 31
2025-26 STATS
68-19-26-45-56

Injury-prone big guy ends up near 20-goal mark, but needs to be in the right situation.

91

GP 83 G 25 A 66

MITCH MARNER

VEGAS

CAP HIT: $12,000,000

POS RW **AGE** 29
2025-26 STATS
81-24-56-80-24

Not quite the same firepower in Vegas as was in Toronto, so his numbers suffer slightly.

65

GP 80 G 31 A 34

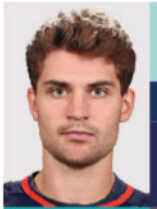
PORTER MARTONE

PHILADELPHIA

CAP HIT: $977,917

POS RW **AGE** 19
'25-26 NCAA STATS
35-25-25-50-78

He's a first-line and power-play beast and a favorite to win the Calder Trophy.



42

GP 80 G 17 A 25

DENTON MATEYCHUK

COLUMBUS

CAP HIT: $886,666

POS D **AGE** 22
2025-26 STATS
75-13-18-31-8

He's a goal-scoring defenseman. Not a lot of assists, but he's just getting started.

31

GP 81 G 6 A 25

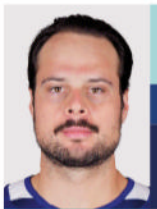
MIKE MATHESON

MONTREAL

CAP HIT: $6,000,000

POS D **AGE** 32
2025-26 STATS
78-7-30-37-34

Led Montreal in ice time but isn't on the power play anymore, so his points are limited.



80

GP 76 G 43 A 37

AUSTON MATTHEWS

TORONTO

CAP HIT: $13,250,000

POS C **AGE** 29
2025-26 STATS
60-27-26-53-18

Will rebound from a poor season. He has six 40-goal seasons and has more in him.

55

GP 72 G 10 A 45

CHARLIE MCAVOY

BOSTON

CAP HIT: $9,500,000

POS D **AGE** 28
2025-26 STATS
69-11-50-61-62

A six-game suspension to start season, but he always misses time with injuries anyway.

60

GP 80 G 30 A 30

JARED MCCANN

SEATTLE

CAP HIT: $5,000,000

POS LW **AGE** 30
2025-26 STATS
52-20-20-40-11

Missed 30 games last year. He should return to his regular 30-30 range.

141

GP 80 G 50 A 91

CONNOR MCDAVID

EDMONTON

CAP HIT: $12,500,000

POS C **AGE** 29
2025-26 STATS
82-48-90-138-44

It's a three-horse race for first overall. If it's just points you need, here's your guy.

52

GP 81 G 15 A 37

GAVIN MCKENNA

TORONTO

CAP HIT: $1,075,000

POS LW **AGE** 18
'25-26 NCAA STATS
35-15-36-51-36

Might start a little slowly, but he'll be top-six fixture and on the power play very quickly.

46

GP 80 G 15 A 31

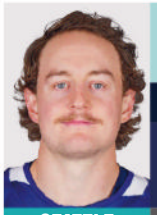
RYAN MCLEOD

BUFFALO

CAP HIT: $5,000,000

POS C **AGE** 27
2025-26 STATS
81-14-40-54-16

Has thrived since landing in Buffalo, putting up his two best seasons.



48
GP 76 G 27 A 21

BOBBY MCMANN
SEATTLE | CAP HIT: $5,750,000

POS C **AGE** 30
2025-26 STATS
78-29-17-46-42

Power forward won't repeat trade-bump goal rate, but he will have a spot on Seattle PP.

57
GP 80 G 25 A 32

CONNOR MCMICHAEL
ST. LOUIS | CAP HIT: $6,750,000

POS C **AGE** 25
2025-26 STATS
78-14-32-46-30

Coming off a poor year. Moving to a new team will help him have a rebound season.

55
GP 77 G 25 A 30

MASON MCTAVISH
ST. LOUIS | CAP HIT: $7,000,000

POS C **AGE** 23
2025-26 STATS
75-17-24-41-42

A change in scenery for the 2021 No. 3 pick overall is going to do wonders for him.

53
GP 80 G 25 A 28

TIMO MEIER
NEW JERSEY | CAP HIT: $8,800,000

POS RW **AGE** 29
2025-26 STATS
77-24-20-44-22

He should score more considering his usage. He'll at least be better than last year.

43
GP 84 G 21 A 22

DAWSON MERCER
NEW JERSEY | CAP HIT: $4,000,000

POS C **AGE** 24
2025-26 STATS
82-20-22-42-33

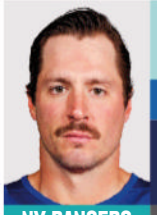
Has never missed an NHL game. His averages per season are 21-21-42.

60
GP 82 G 25 A 35

MATVEI MICHKOV
PHILADELPHIA | CAP HIT: $950,000

POS RW **AGE** 21
2025-26 STATS
81-20-31-51-71

He led the Flyers in scoring after the Olympic break, but consistency is a big issue.



58
GP 73 G 20 A 38

J.T. MILLER
NY RANGERS | CAP HIT: $8,000,000

POS C **AGE** 33
2025-26 STATS
68-17-36-53-33

Forget the 100 points and 30 goals for the 33-year-old. Set your sights much lower.

33
GP 75 G 8 A 25

K'ANDRE MILLER
CAROLINA | CAP HIT: $7,500,000

POS D **AGE** 26
2025-26 STATS
72-8-29-37-56

Not the main power-play point guy, but he's a consistent offensive contributor.

59
GP 80 G 24 A 35

MICHAEL MISA
SAN JOSE | CAP HIT: $986,250

POS C **AGE** 19
2025-26 STATS
45-9-12-21-10

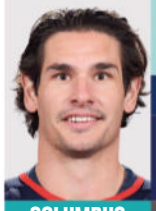
Picked it up after a slow start and injuries last year. Look for a huge increase in points.

41
GP 74 G 16 A 25

CASEY MITTELSTADT
BOSTON | CAP HIT: $5,750,000

POS C **AGE** 27
2025-26 STATS
71-15-27-42-12

If you need a guy who scores 40 points, this bottom-six fixture will get you 40 points.



40
GP 75 G 15 A 25

SEAN MONAHAN
COLUMBUS | CAP HIT: $5,500,000

POS C **AGE** 31
2025-26 STATS
78-13-23-36-12

Monahan is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're going to get.

38
GP 81 G 13 A 25

BRANDON MONTOUR
SEATTLE | CAP HIT: $7,142,857

POS D **AGE** 32
2025-26 STATS
64-11-21-32-45

A good goal-scorer without many assists. Mans the second power-play unit.

45
GP 75 G 20 A 25

TREVOR MOORE
LOS ANGELES | CAP HIT: $4,200,000

POS LW **AGE** 31
2025-26 STATS
69-13-19-32-8

He's not likely to score 30 goals again, but 20 is a reasonable expectation.

62
GP 78 G 14 A 48

JOSH MORRISSEY
WINNIPEG | CAP HIT: $6,250,000

POS D **AGE** 31
2025-26 STATS
77-14-41-55-30

Mainstay on the power play (16 points) but also gets his points at even strength (39).

49
GP 76 G 22 A 27

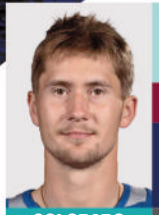
FRANK NAZAR
CHICAGO | CAP HIT: $6,599,991

POS C **AGE** 22
2025-26 STATS
66-15-26-41-26

Had a 21-game goal drought last year, but he'll be more consistent with experience.

SKATERS

NECAS – PALMIERI



102

GP 80 G 42 A 60

MARTIN NECAS

COLORADO | CAP HIT: $11,500,000

POS C **AGE** 27
2025-26 STATS
78-38-62-100-30

Power play with MacKinnon and Makar is a nice gig, but he's a star in his own right.

47

GP 83 G 22 A 25

JAKE NEIGHBOURS

ST. LOUIS | CAP HIT: $3,750,000

POS LW **AGE** 24
2025-26 STATS
69-15-21-36-43

Appears now to be a middle-six secondary scorer with some streaks – not a top-liner.

62

GP 83 G 31 A 31

BROCK NELSON

COLORADO | CAP HIT: $7,500,000

POS C **AGE** 34
2025-26 STATS
81-33-32-65-36

Gets better with age. He's had three 30-30 seasons in the past four. None previously.

38

GP 80 G 15 A 23

SIMON NEMEC

CALGARY | CAP HIT: $7,250,000

POS D **AGE** 22
2025-26 STATS
68-11-15-26-26

Good goal-scoring defenseman could get more power-play time. Worth a late pick.

50

GP 79 G 25 A 25

ALEX NEWHOOK

MONTREAL | CAP HIT: $2,900,000

POS C **AGE** 25
2025-26 STATS
42-13-12-25-10

Led Montreal in playoff goals after injuries stopped a career season. Nice sleeper for you.

45

GP 71 G 20 A 25

VALERI NICHUSHKIN

COLUMBUS | CAP HIT: $6,125,000

POS RW **AGE** 31
2025-26 STATS
72-17-32-49-26

Played more than 65 games for the first time since 2016. Take at your own risk.

34

GP 80 G 10 A 24

ALEXANDER NIKISHIN

CAROLINA | CAP HIT: RFA

POS D **AGE** 24
2025-26 STATS
81-11-22-33-33

Mirrored some of the nice numbers he had in the KHL – at least during regular season.

52

GP 65 G 27 A 25

JOSH NORRIS

BUFFALO | CAP HIT: $7,950,000

POS C **AGE** 27
2025-26 STATS
44-13-21-34-28

Constant, constant, constant injury concern. If he's not injured, he will be soon.

40

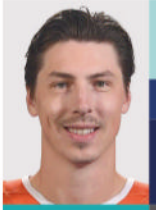
GP 75 G 15 A 25

TOMMY NOVAK

PITTSBURGH | CAP HIT: $3,500,000

POS LW **AGE** 29
2025-26 STATS
82-16-26-42-24

Was 8-13-21 in first half and 8-13-21 in second. First signs of consistency.



63

GP 76 G 21 A 42

RYAN NUGENT-HOPKINS

EDMONTON | CAP HIT: $5,125,000

POS C **AGE** 33
2025-26 STATS
72-20-36-56-21

Had 104 points four years ago, so there's always hope – but really there isn't.

89

GP 82 G 41 A 48

WILLIAM NYLANDER

TORONTO | CAP HIT: $11,500,000

POS RW **AGE** 30
2025-26 STATS
65-30-49-79-16

Scored at least 40 goals three years in a row before last season. That's where he belongs.

62

GP 82 G 23 A 39

RYAN O'REILLY

NASHVILLE | CAP HIT: $4,500,000

POS C **AGE** 35
2025-26 STATS
81-25-49-74-22

Second-best season at 35. No upside, but nobody is challenging his No. 1-center role.

31

GP 80 G 6 A 25

DMITRY ORLOV

SAN JOSE | CAP HIT: $6,500,000

POS D **AGE** 35
2025-26 STATS
82-3-34-37-48

Career seasons at 34 are fun but not repeatable. Was on power play by default.

61

GP 81 G 31 A 30

ALEX OVECHKIN

WASHINGTON | CAP HIT: $4,250,000

POS LW **AGE** 41
2025-26 STATS
82-32-32-64-26

It's over when he says it's over, and he hasn't said it yet. Still a great release.

47

GP 81 G 23 A 24

KYLE PALMIERI

NY ISLANDERS | CAP HIT: $4,750,000

POS C **AGE** 35
2025-26 STATS
25-6-12-18-8

Only played 25 games a year ago, but he will be ready. Could slip by as a sleeper.

90
GP 81 G 35 A 55

ARTEMI PANARIN

LOS ANGELES | CAP HIT: $11,000,000

POS LW **AGE** 34
2025-26 STATS
78-28-56-84-20

He hasn't averaged less than a point a game in nine seasons. That won't stop now.

50
GP 79 G 12 A 38

ZAYNE PAREKH

CALGARY | CAP HIT: $953,750

POS D **AGE** 20
2025-26 STATS
37-4-5-9-8

A few speed bumps as a rookie, but he's on the fast track to becoming a star.

109
GP 84 G 44 A 65

DAVID PASTRNAK

BOSTON | CAP HIT: $11,250,000

POS RW **AGE** 30
2025-26 STATS
77-29-71-100-72

Goals down but one of just four NHL players on four consecutive 100-point seasons.

41
GP 77 G 20 A 21

NICK PAUL

TORONTO | CAP HIT: $3,150,000

POS LW **AGE** 31
2025-26 STATS
51-7-8-15-32

Injuries ruined last season, but a return to health means a return to the 20-goal mark.

55
GP 76 G 20 A 35

COLE PERFETTI

WINNIPEG | CAP HIT: $6,000,000

POS C **AGE** 24
2025-26 STATS
68-12-20-32-20

There's more in there. He'll get more opportunities on a scoring line. Time to get moving.

47
GP 81 G 22 A 25

GABE PERREAULT

NY RANGERS | CAP HIT: $941,667

POS RW **AGE** 21
2025-26 STATS
49-12-15-27-10

Solidified scoring-line spot, going 9-10-19 in 25 games after the Olympic break.

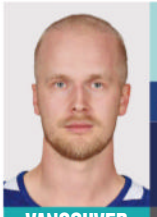
60
GP 83 G 27 A 33

JJ PETERKA

BOSTON | CAP HIT: $7,700,000

POS RW **AGE** 24
2025-26 STATS
82-25-22-47-28

Was a poor fit in Utah, but in Boston, he will get top-six and power-play time.



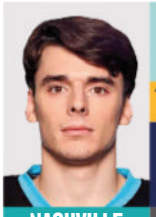
64
GP 79 G 22 A 42

ELIAS PETTERSSON

VANCOUVER | CAP HIT: $11,600,000

POS C **AGE** 27
2025-26 STATS
74-15-36-51-20

He had 102 points four years ago, so take a chance that he can regain some of that.



40
GP 79 G 17 A 23

VITALI PINCHUK

NASHVILLE | CAP HIT: $1,025,000

POS C **AGE** 24
2025-26 KHL STATS
65-31-35-66-18

A lot of teams wanted the KHL scorer, but keep expectations low in first season.

45
GP 78 G 20 A 25

SHANE PINTO

OTTAWA | CAP HIT: $7,500,000

POS C **AGE** 25
2025-26 STATS
72-23-23-46-42

More valuable to his team than us, but as a defensive player, he still puts up points.

33
GP 76 G 7 A 26

NEAL PIONK

WINNIPEG | CAP HIT: $7,000,000

POS D **AGE** 31
2025-26 STATS
51-3-9-12-37

Just write off last year. In a healthy season, he's a 30- to 40-point guy.

40
GP 83 G 20 A 20

VASILY PODKOLZIN

EDMONTON | CAP HIT: $2,950,000

POS RW **AGE** 25
2025-26 STATS
82-19-18-37-63

Had a lot of top-six assignments last year, but it's no guarantee that continues.

82
GP 78 G 38 A 44

BRAYDEN POINT

TAMPA BAY | CAP HIT: $9,500,000

POS C **AGE** 30
2025-26 STATS
63-18-32-50-14

Point will come cheaper after a terrible, injury-plagued season. Get him. He'll rebound.

34
GP 80 G 7 A 27

OWEN POWER

BUFFALO | CAP HIT: $8,350,000

POS D **AGE** 23
2025-26 STATS
81-8-21-29-16

With Byram departing, there's a good chance his power-play time will increase.

62
GP 78 G 30 A 32

ALIAKSEI PROTAS

WASHINGTON | CAP HIT: $3,375,000

POS RW **AGE** 25
2025-26 STATS
76-25-27-52-20

Oddly, he's never had a power-play goal. That means there's upside in the goal area.

SKATERS

PROVOROV - SANDERSON

32

GP 84 G 8 A 24

IVAN PROVOROV

COLUMBUS

CAP HIT: $8,500,000

POS D **AGE** 29
2025-26 STATS
82-9-22-31-32

Consistently in the 30-point range and hasn't missed a game in four seasons.

62

GP 80 G 25 A 37

JACK QUINN

BUFFALO

CAP HIT: $3,375,000

POS RW **AGE** 25
2025-26 STATS
82-20-31-51-18

Set career highs across the board but hasn't peaked. There's more to come.

58

GP 75 G 13 A 45

DARREN RADDYSH

TORONTO

CAP HIT: $8,500,000

POS D **AGE** 30
2025-26 STATS
73-22-48-70-72

One of the most surprising career seasons ever. A repeat would be more surprising.

62

GP 76 G 31 A 31

RICKARD RAKELL

PITTSBURGH

CAP HIT: $5,000,000

POS RW **AGE** 33
2025-26 STATS
60-24-24-48-8

You want him, but not at a high price. Inconsistent, and he's 33 now.

94

GP 73 G 33 A 61

MIKKO RANTANEN

DALLAS

CAP HIT: $12,000,000

POS RW **AGE** 29
2025-26 STATS
64-22-55-77-93

Toned down a bit from the 50-goal Colorado days, but assists and points are still high.

75

GP 83 G 25 A 50

LUCAS RAYMOND

DETROIT

CAP HIT: $8,075,000

POS LW **AGE** 24
2025-26 STATS
80-25-51-76-22

First line, power play and near the top of team scoring. He's established his level.

76

GP 77 G 36 A 40

SAM REINHART

FLORIDA

CAP HIT: $8,625,000

POS C **AGE** 30
2025-26 STATS
64-29-32-61-10

One of many Panthers who suffered with injuries, and one of many due back on track.

42

GP 78 G 7 A 35

MORGAN RIELLY

TORONTO

CAP HIT: $7,500,000

POS D **AGE** 32
2025-26 STATS
78-11-25-36-29

Average ice time and power-play points down, but they can just as easily go back up.

45

GP 76 G 17 A 28

CALUM RITCHIE

NY ISLANDERS

CAP HIT: $940,833

POS C **AGE** 21
2025-26 STATS
65-13-17-30-22

Expect an increase after a fine rookie season. Bigger numbers coming later.

90

GP 84 G 40 A 50

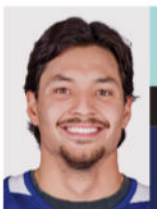
JASON ROBERTSON

DALLAS

CAP HIT: $12,000,000

POS LW **AGE** 27
2025-26 STATS
82-45-51-96-32

Only four players had at least 45 goals and 50 assists last year, so yeah, he goes early.



40

GP 79 G 21 A 19

NICHOLAS ROBERTSON

PITTSBURGH

CAP HIT: $3,250,000

POS LW **AGE** 25
2025-26 STATS
78-16-16-32-10

He plays like a guy who should score more often. A change of scenery should help.

44

GP 75 G 22 A 22

JACK ROSLOVIC

TORONTO

CAP HIT: $4,000,000

POS C **AGE** 29
2025-26 STATS
69-21-15-36-16

Four teams in three seasons says something, but so does consecutive 20-goal years.

60

GP 79 G 24 A 36

MARCO ROSSI

VANCOUVER

CAP HIT: $5,000,000

POS C **AGE** 25
2025-26 STATS
50-12-23-35-10

He's a good fit in Vancouver, where there's little competition for top-six ice time.

68

GP 77 G 32 A 36

BRYAN RUST

PITTSBURGH

CAP HIT: $5,125,000

POS RW **AGE** 34
2025-26 STATS
72-29-36-65-26

Consistent injury worry, but he still puts up good numbers in the 30-30 range most years.

64

GP 78 G 16 A 48

JAKE SANDERSON

OTTAWA

CAP HIT: $8,050,000

POS D **AGE** 24
2025-26 STATS
67-14-40-54-8

Elite defenseman plays a lot, shoots a lot and scores a lot. He does everything – a lot.

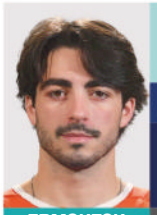
37
GP 83 G 10 A 27

TRAVIS
SANHEIM

PHILADELPHIA | CAP HIT: $6,250,000

POS D **AGE** 30
2025-26 STATS
81-11-26-37-20

Gets a lot of ice time but not much of it on the PP, so his point totals remain modest.



54
GP 83 G 26 A 28

MATTHEW
SAVOIE

EDMONTON | CAP HIT: $886,666

POS C **AGE** 22
2025-26 STATS
82-18-19-37-24

Played every game last year and scored better later in the season. Could be his time.

79
GP 83 G 30 A 49

MATTHEW
SCHAEFER

NY ISLANDERS | CAP HIT: $986,250

POS D **AGE** 19
2025-26 STATS
82-23-36-59-38

Only one of the best rookie defensemen...in history. Hard to see him be better, but...

98
GP 84 G 40 A 58

MARK
SCHEIFELE

WINNIPEG | CAP HIT: $8,500,000

POS C **AGE** 33
2025-26 STATS
82-36-67-103-43

It's astonishing that he keeps getting better. Surely, at 33, he's peaked by now.

40
GP 84 G 17 A 23

BRAYDEN
SCHENN

NY ISLANDERS | CAP HIT: $6,500,000

POS C **AGE** 35
2025-26 STATS
80-18-21-39-68

At 35, he's showing signs of fading. On the other hand, he's played 326 straight games.

70
GP 83 G 30 A 40

NICK
SCHMALTZ

UTAH | CAP HIT: $8,000,000

POS C **AGE** 30
2025-26 STATS
82-33-41-74-28

As Utah has improved, so has he. He set career highs in goals and points last season.

40
GP 60 G 20 A 20

TYLER
SEGUIN

DALLAS | CAP HIT: $9,850,000

POS C **AGE** 34
2025-26 STATS
27-7-10-17-2

He's a poor investment given his injuries, but if you can get him late, it could pay off.

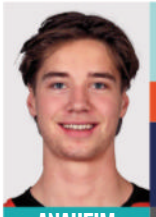
58
GP 84 G 12 A 46

MORITZ
SEIDER

DETROIT | CAP HIT: $8,550,000

POS D **AGE** 25
2025-26 STATS
82-10-50-60-57

Elite all-around defenseman has never missed a game in five NHL seasons.



68
GP 84 G 27 A 41

BECKETT
SENNECKE

ANAHEIM | CAP HIT: $953,750

POS RW **AGE** 20
2025-26 STATS
82-23-37-60-62

Boffo rookie year with remarkable consistency, which bodes well for sophomore season.

61
GP 80 G 11 A 50

MIKHAIL
SERGACHEV

UTAH | CAP HIT: $8,500,000

POS D **AGE** 28
2025-26 STATS
78-10-49-59-44

He's had two good offensive seasons as the main man on the Utah power play.

34
GP 74 G 7 A 27

DAMON
SEVERSON

COLUMBUS | CAP HIT: $6,250,000

POS D **AGE** 32
2025-26 STATS
71-8-24-32-45

Gets his share of goals and has had a consistent career with few surprises.

40
GP 79 G 18 A 22

KIEFER
SHERWOOD

SAN JOSE | CAP HIT: $5,750,000

POS LW **AGE** 31
2025-26 STATS
72-23-13-36-50

Sharks gave up a lot for him, but he has just one 20-goal year and may not have more.

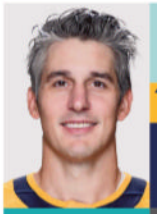
40
GP 82 G 15 A 25

COLE
SILLINGER

COLUMBUS | CAP HIT: $4,625,000

POS C **AGE** 23
2025-26 STATS
81-8-25-33-37

Hasn't lived up to high draft selection, but he's only 23, so roll the dice with a late pick.



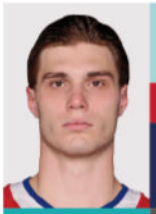
32
GP 83 G 8 A 24

BRADY
SKJEI

NASHVILLE | CAP HIT: $7,000,000

POS D **AGE** 32
2025-26 STATS
82-3-23-26-40

Not much power-play time, but usually gets more than the three goals he had last year.



68
GP 83 G 27 A 41

JURAJ
SLAFKOVSKY

MONTREAL | CAP HIT: $7,600,000

POS LW **AGE** 22
2025-26 STATS
82-30-43-73-52

Great year, but half of his 30 goals came on the power play, and that's not dependable.

SKATERS

SMITH - TERRY

71

GP 79 G 30 A 41

WILL SMITH

SAN JOSE

CAP HIT: $950,000

POS C **AGE** 21
2025-26 STATS
69-24-35-59-16

Finished second to Celebrini on Sharks – although it was an incredible 56 points behind.

67

GP 81 G 30 A 37

JIMMY SNUGGERUD

ST. LOUIS

CAP HIT: $950,000

POS RW **AGE** 22
2025-26 STATS
70-21-30-51-18

Sensational after return from wrist surgery, leading St. Louis with 39 second-half points.

59

GP 84 G 27 A 32

STEVEN STAMKOS

NASHVILLE

CAP HIT: $8,000,000

POS C **AGE** 36
2025-26 STATS
82-42-24-66-58

An incredible rebound season of 42 goals at 36. Repeating would be more astonishing.

54

GP 83 G 27 A 27

LOGAN STANKOVEN

CAROLINA

CAP HIT: $6,000,000

POS C **AGE** 23
2025-26 STATS
81-21-23-44-25

Showed what he's capable of in the playoffs. Potential 30-goal scorer.

49

GP 78 G 18 A 31

IVAR STENBERG

SAN JOSE

CAP HIT: $1,075,000

POS LW **AGE** 19
2025-26 SHL STATS
43-11-22-33-6

No point waiting around. He's the real deal who slides into the top six, maybe top three.

52

GP 80 G 16 A 36

CHANDLER STEPHENSON

SEATTLE

CAP HIT: $6,250,000

POS C **AGE** 32
2025-26 STATS
80-16-33-49-14

He's a reliable 50-point scorer. No surprises, upside or downside.

64

GP 65 G 23 A 41

MARK STONE

VEGAS

CAP HIT: $9,500,000

POS RW **AGE** 34
2025-26 STATS
60-28-45-73-9

Hasn't played as many as 70 games in a season since 2018-19 but still gets his 60 points.

66

GP 82 G 25 A 41

DYLAN STROME

WASHINGTON

CAP HIT: $5,000,000

POS C **AGE** 29
2025-26 STATS
80-19-39-58-46

A lot of Caps had poor seasons last year, and a lot will rebound, including Strome.

85

GP 81 G 32 A 53

TIM STUTZLE

OTTAWA

CAP HIT: $8,350,000

POS LW **AGE** 24
2025-26 STATS
80-34-49-83-39

Goal totals fluctuated between 18 and 39 the past four years, but assists always around 50.

96

GP 84 G 33 A 63

NICK SUZUKI

MONTREAL

CAP HIT: $7,875,000

POS C **AGE** 27
2025-26 STATS
82-29-72-101-28

Reached 100 points, but it's difficult to repeat. Has never missed a regular-season game.

75

GP 81 G 36 A 39

ANDREI SVECHNIKOV

CAROLINA

CAP HIT: $7,750,000

POS RW **AGE** 26
2025-26 STATS
79-31-39-70-66

Puts up very good – but not great – numbers. You'd think he could hit 40 goals.

41

GP 73 G 20 A 21

VLADIMIR TARASENKO

UFA

CAP HIT: UFA

POS RW **AGE** 34
2025-26 STATS
75-23-24-47-10

Unreliable, but if you're not risking much, he can still be a decent pick.

63

GP 81 G 28 A 35

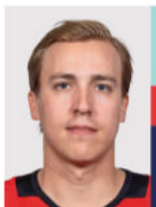
JOHN TAVARES

TORONTO

CAP HIT: $4,389,280

POS C **AGE** 36
2025-26 STATS
82-31-40-71-28

One of just 30 players this century to score at least 30 goals at 35 or older.



49

GP 76 G 18 A 31

TEUVO TERAVAINEN

CHICAGO

CAP HIT: $5,400,000

POS LW **AGE** 32
2025-26 STATS
75-14-21-35-6

Coming off a terrible season. He's rebounded before, but be careful: he plays for Chicago.

50

GP 55 G 18 A 32

TROY TERRY

ANAHEIM

CAP HIT: $7,000,000

POS RW **AGE** 29
2025-26 STATS
61-19-38-57-14

Hip surgery is likely to keep him out of action at least until late November.

46
GP 73 G 11 A 35

SHEA THEODORE

VEGAS | CAP HIT: $7,425,000

POS D **AGE** 31
2025-26 STATS
70-10-29-39-24

Misses a lot of time with injuries just about every year. Still worth the risk.

80
GP 76 G 25 A 55

ROBERT THOMAS

ST. LOUIS | CAP HIT: $8,125,000

POS C **AGE** 27
2025-26 STATS
64-25-39-64-24

After he returned from his injury, he had 14-17-31 in 22 games, more like his usual self.

83
GP 80 G 43 A 40

TAGE THOMPSON

BUFFALO | CAP HIT: $7,142,857

POS C **AGE** 28
2025-26 STATS
81-40-41-81-35

At least 40 goals in three of the past four seasons. Assists are less predictable.

52
GP 80 G 27 A 25

OWEN TIPPETT

PHILADELPHIA | CAP HIT: $6,200,000

POS RW **AGE** 27
2025-26 STATS
81-28-23-51-32

We might have expected more at some point, but close to 30 goals and 50 points will do.

80
GP 82 G 35 A 45

BRADY TKACHUK

FLORIDA | CAP HIT: $8,205,714

POS LW **AGE** 27
2025-26 STATS
60-22-37-59-71

Re-united with his brother to form a formidable duo. A formidable team, really.

90
GP 76 G 27 A 63

MATTHEW TKACHUK

FLORIDA | CAP HIT: $9,500,000

POS LW **AGE** 28
2025-26 STATS
31-13-21-34-48

His prorated point total from last year is 90 – about what we'd expect when healthy.

31
GP 76 G 5 A 26

DEVON TOEWS

COLORADO | CAP HIT: $7,250,000

POS D **AGE** 32
2025-26 STATS
68-3-21-24-32

Drops in goals and points could be a sign, but he picked it up in the playoffs.

40
GP 77 G 15 A 25

TYLER TOFFOLI

SAN JOSE | CAP HIT: $6,000,000

POS RW **AGE** 34
2025-26 STATS
79-19-30-49-10

Big drop in ice time and goals last year, and at 34, they aren't going up again.

40
GP 81 G 16 A 24

EELI TOLVANEN

UFA | CAP HIT: UFA

POS RW **AGE** 27
2025-26 STATS
78-12-24-36-30

Low-range mediocre scorer is a lineup filler. But he hits a lot. Good for 'banger' leagues.

54
GP 81 G 21 A 33

VINCENT TROCHECK

UTAH | CAP HIT: $5,625,000

POS C **AGE** 33
2025-26 STATS
67-16-37-53-64

Still getting it done at 33, but he'll get third-line ice time on up-and-coming Mammoth.

33
GP 81 G 7 A 26

JACOB TROUBA

SAN JOSE | CAP HIT: $8,250,000

POS D **AGE** 32
2025-26 STATS
81-10-25-35-31

He can still get you some goals, but he isn't a reliable offensive threat anymore.

70
GP 80 G 35 A 35

ALEX TUCH

WASHINGTON | CAP HIT: $10,500,000

POS RW **AGE** 30
2025-26 STATS
79-33-33-66-57

In three of the past four seasons, he's had at least 30 goals and 30 assists.

54
GP 80 G 23 A 31

CARTER VERHAEGHE

FLORIDA | CAP HIT: $7,000,000

POS LW **AGE** 31
2025-26 STATS
77-25-30-55-32

Guaranteed a spot on a scoring line. Won't get 40 goals anymore but still scores.

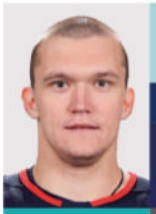
71
GP 81 G 33 A 38

GABE VILARDI

WINNIPEG | CAP HIT: $7,500,000

POS C **AGE** 27
2025-26 STATS
82-30-39-69-24

Scored a lot of goals on the power play (13), but his 17 at even strength is a slight worry.



47
GP 76 G 22 A 25

DMITRI VORONKOV

COLUMBUS | CAP HIT: $4,175,000

POS LW **AGE** 26
2025-26 STATS
63-17-15-32-59

Mid-range scorer gets power-play time and can play up and down the lineup.

SKATERS

WALMAN – ZUCKER

33

JAKE **WALMAN**

GP 72 G 10 A 23

EDMONTON | CAP HIT: $7,000,000

POS D **AGE** 30
2025-26 STATS
53-8-12-20-10

No stranger to the scoresheet – but also no stranger to the injured reserve.

31

MACKENZIE **WEEGAR**

GP 82 G 7 A 24

UTAH | CAP HIT: $6,250,000

POS D **AGE** 32
2025-26 STATS
79-4-24-28-88

He had impressive numbers in the past with Calgary, but that's not his job in Utah.

40

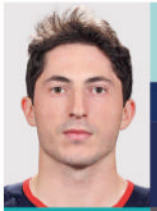
ALEXANDER **WENNBERG**

GP 80 G 13 A 27

SAN JOSE | CAP HIT: $6,000,000

POS C **AGE** 32
2025-26 STATS
80-18-37-55-18

Career season at 31 is rarely repeatable. And PP time lessens as Misa's increases.



82

ZACH **WERENSKI**

GP 82 G 22 A 60

COLUMBUS | CAP HIT: $9,583,334

POS D **AGE** 29
2025-26 STATS
75-22-59-81-18

Consecutive, almost-identical elite-level seasons. No reason he can't get a third in a row.

64

TOM **WILSON**

GP 73 G 32 A 32

WASHINGTON | CAP HIT: $6,540,000

POS RW **AGE** 32
2025-26 STATS
72-30-32-62-117

That's two 30-goal seasons in a row for a guy who once had three in a full season.

47

MATTHEW **WOOD**

GP 79 G 24 A 23

NASHVILLE | CAP HIT: $950,000

POS RW **AGE** 21
2025-26 STATS
71-17-13-30-14

Decent rookie season, and it's only going to get better for the 2023 first-rounder.

45

SHANE **WRIGHT**

GP 81 G 21 A 24

SEATTLE | CAP HIT: $886,666

POS C **AGE** 22
2025-26 STATS
74-12-15-27-10

He's only 22, so don't write him off yet. It's time for him to get it together.

42

DANILA **YUROV**

GP 77 G 18 A 24

MINNESOTA | CAP HIT: $972,500

POS RW **AGE** 22
2025-26 STATS
73-12-15-27-28

One season under his belt. Expect more production over the next couple of seasons.

57

PAVEL **ZACHA**

GP 80 G 22 A 35

BOSTON | CAP HIT: $4,750,000

POS C **AGE** 29
2025-26 STATS
78-30-35-65-28

Goals will drop after a huge shooting-percentage bump, but points should stay high.

67

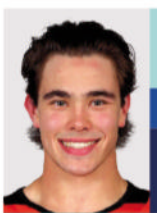
TREVOR **ZEGRAS**

GP 82 G 23 A 44

PHILADELPHIA | CAP HIT: $9,125,000

POS C **AGE** 25
2025-26 STATS
81-26-41-67-62

Trade from Anaheim to Philadelphia revived his career back to the 60-70 point level.



36

OLEN **ZELLWEGER**

GP 78 G 11 A 25

BUFFALO | CAP HIT: $3,100,000

POS D **AGE** 23
2025-26 STATS
76-7-15-22-34

An offensive threat at even strength, but there is no PP time available in Buffalo.

40

FABIAN **ZETTERLUND**

GP 83 G 20 A 20

OTTAWA | CAP HIT: $4,275,000

POS LW **AGE** 27
2025-26 STATS
82-17-16-33-16

You'd think he'd score more, but he never does. The best you can hope for is 40 points.

70

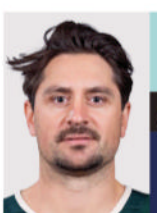
MIKA **ZIBANEJAD**

GP 83 G 30 A 40

NY RANGERS | CAP HIT: $8,500,000

POS C **AGE** 33
2025-26 STATS
81-34-44-78-14

Goal totals fluctuate, but at 33 and with little help, there's nowhere to go but down.



50

MATS **ZUCCARELLO**

GP 71 G 15 A 35

LOS ANGELES | CAP HIT: $1,000,000

POS RW **AGE** 39
2025-26 STATS
59-15-39-54-20

He's 39 but still plays like a 35-year-old. He'll play another year or two.

49

JASON **ZUCKER**

GP 75 G 23 A 26

BUFFALO | CAP HIT: $4,750,000

POS LW **AGE** 34
2025-26 STATS
62-24-21-45-23

He's 34, but he's had two 20-goal seasons in two years in Buffalo, so he's a good fit.

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FANTASY GUIDE

GOALIES

Andrei Vasilevskiy is still your best bet between the pipes, but who should you target once he's been picked? These are fantasy guru Murray Townsend's **WIN PROJECTIONS** for the top 60 NHL goalies for 2026-27. Use our checklist on pg. 214 to help keep track of who's been selected in your draft.

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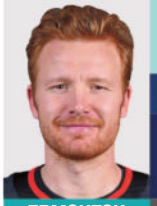
24
GAA 2.68 SP .901

JAKE ALLEN
NEW JERSEY
CAP HIT: $1,800,000

POS G **AGE** 36
2025-26 STATS
17-17-2, 2.74, .904

Has been a backup playing a lot in recent years; as a No. 1, he'll play a bit more.



28
GAA 2.89 SP .902

FREDERIK ANDERSEN
EDMONTON
CAP HIT: $1,000,000

POS G **AGE** 36
2025-26 STATS
16-14-5, 3.05, .874

He's a No. 1 goalie on paper, but on ice he doesn't play enough. He's injured too often.

12
GAA 2.65 SP .903

JUSTUS ANNUNEN
NASHVILLE
CAP HIT: $1,250,000

POS G **AGE** 26
2025-26 STATS
10-12-2, 2.68, .907

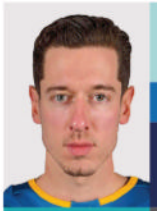
Backup played well enough and is young enough to have a No. 1 shot...somewhere.

25
GAA 2.98 SP .896

YAROSLAV ASKAROV
SAN JOSE
CAP HIT: $2,000,000

POS G **AGE** 24
2025-26 STATS
21-20-4, 3.63, .884

The No. 1 goalie in San Jose for many years to come. Has some letdowns, but who doesn't?



14
GAA 3.12 SP .889

JORDAN BINNINGTON
ST. LOUIS
CAP HIT: $6,000,000

POS G **AGE** 33
2025-26 STATS
13-20-7, 3.33, .873

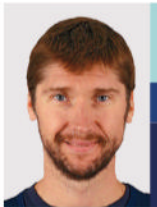
Future is in doubt despite international exploits. Will have to settle for a backup role.

28
GAA 2.21 SP .910

MACKENZIE BLACKWOOD
COLORADO
CAP HIT: $5,250,000

POS G **AGE** 29
2025-26 STATS
23-10-2, 2.51, .904

He wins and has good numbers, but the issue is sharing the crease with Wedgewood.



29
GAA 2.62 SP .905

SERGEI BOBROVSKY
TORONTO
CAP HIT: $7,000,000

POS G **AGE** 38
2025-26 STATS
27-23-1, 3.07, .877

He has a poor season every once in a while, but he never has two of them in a row.

33
GAA 2.55 SP .901

BRANDON BUSSI
CAROLINA
CAP HIT: $1,900,000

POS G **AGE** 28
2025-26 STATS
31-6-2, 2.47, .895

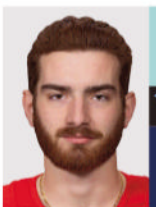
Great AHL stats, a crazy win-loss record and a Cup win make him the No. 1 in Carolina.

9
GAA 2.75 SP .904

DEVIN COOLEY
CALGARY
CAP HIT: $1,350,000

POS G **AGE** 29
2025-26 STATS
10-10-6, 2.69, .909

With little warning, the undrafted 6-foot-5 minor-leaguer is now a major-leaguer.



14
GAA 2.51 SP .905

SEBASTIAN COSSA
UTAH
CAP HIT: $2,000,000

POS G **AGE** 23
2025-26 AHL STATS
26-8-4 2.33, .915

Gets out of a crowded crease situation in Detroit and into a full-time backup role in Utah.

25
GAA 2.87 SP .899

JOEY DACCORD
SEATTLE
CAP HIT: $5,000,000

POS G **AGE** 30
2025-26 STATS
20-20-6, 3.03, .897

Tougher to get wins on a team that doesn't score very much, but he's consistently solid.

23
GAA 2.92 SP .900

THATCHER DEMKO
VANCOUVER
CAP HIT: $8,500,000

POS G **AGE** 30
2025-26 STATS
8-10-1, 2.90, .897

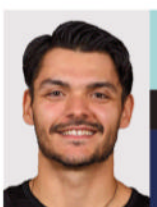
If it's Tuesday, he's probably injured. Avoid unless you have a late-round spec pick.

14
GAA 2.31 SP .906

CASEY DESMITH
DALLAS
CAP HIT: $1,050,000

POS G **AGE** 35
2025-26 STATS
15-8-6, 2.43, .907

Has never been a starter but has developed into one of the league's best backups.



14
GAA 2.57 SP .908

MICHAEL DIPIETRO
BOSTON
CAP HIT: $812,500

POS G **AGE** 27
2025-26 AHL STATS
34-8-1, 1.91, .930

Back-to-back AHL goalie of the year finally gets a shot as a full-time NHL backup.

31
GAA 2.52 SP .905

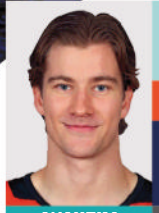
JAKUB DOBES
MONTREAL
CAP HIT: $965,000

POS G **AGE** 25
2025-26 STATS
29-10-4, 2.78, .901

After starting in all of Montreal's 19 playoff games, it's a safe assumption he's No. 1.

GOALIES

DOSTAL - KNIGHT



33

GAA 2.78 SP .898

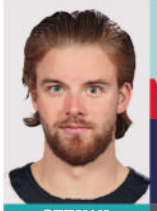
LUKAS
DOSTAL

ANAHEIM

CAP HIT: $6,500,000

POS G **AGE** 26
2025-26 STATS
30-20-4, 3.10, .888

Averaged 55 games the past two years. Numbers not great, but the team wins more now.



17

GAA 3.10 SP .880

SAMUEL
ERSSON

OTTAWA

CAP HIT: $2,200,000

POS G **AGE** 26
2025-26 STATS
14-11-5, 3.12, .870

He had a .912 SP and 1.99 GAA after the Olympic break. He was terrible before, though.

17

GAA 2.51 SP .905

ANTON
FORSBERG

LOS ANGELES

CAP HIT: $2,250,000

POS G **AGE** 33
2025-26 STATS
16-12-5, 2.57, .910

Capable of being a No. 1, but career path is as a backup who plays more than a backup.

17

GAA 2.59 SP .904

JACOB
FOWLER

MONTREAL

CAP HIT: $945,833

POS G **AGE** 21
2025-26 STATS
9-6-2, 2.43, .908

He's ready and good enough for full-time duty but currently settles for part-time duty.

32

GAA 2.70 SP .900

JOHN
GIBSON

DETROIT

CAP HIT: $6,400,000

POS G **AGE** 33
2025-26 STATS
29-22-4, 2.72, .901

Solid workhorse No. 1 goalie. Isn't going to win any awards, but he gets the job done.

28

GAA 2.37 SP .910

JET
GREAVES

COLUMBUS

CAP HIT: $5,000,000

POS G **AGE** 25
2025-26 STATS
26-19-9, 2.60, .908

Undrafted stopper has fought every step of the way – all the way to a No. 1 spot.

15

GAA 2.76 SP .901

PHILIPP
GRUBAUER

SEATTLE

CAP HIT: $5,900,000

POS G **AGE** 34
2025-26 STATS
13-12-4, 2.65, .909

Made a nice comeback after a horrible season, but his days as a No. 1 goalie are behind him.

23

GAA 2.72 SP .905

FILIP
GUSTAVSSON

MINNESOTA

CAP HIT: $6,800,000

POS G **AGE** 28
2025-26 STATS
28-15-6, 2.69, .904

It's not that he hasn't played well, but Wallstedt is pushing him. Maybe 50-50 split.

31

GAA 2.42 SP .907

CARTER
HART

VEGAS

CAP HIT: $2,000,000

POS G **AGE** 28
2025-26 STATS
11-3-3, 2.71, .891

Judging by the playoffs, Hart is the No. 1 choice in Vegas. Not a super long leash though.

30

GAA 2.72 SP .900

CONNOR
HELLEBUYCK

WINNIPEG

CAP HIT: $8,500,000

POS G **AGE** 33
2025-26 STATS
23-23-11, 2.86, .895

Bit of a down year – except for Olympics – but no big deal. One of the busiest and best.

17

GAA 2.77 SP .889

ADIN
HILL

VEGAS

CAP HIT: $6,250,000

POS G **AGE** 30
2025-26 STATS
10-9-6, 3.04, .871

Had a bad year and was over-taken by Hart, but he's had some good ones, too.

27

GAA 2.51 SP .908

JOEL
HOFER

ST. LOUIS

CAP HIT: $3,400,000

POS G **AGE** 26
2025-26 STATS
24-13-5, 2.61, .910

Took over the No. 1 job in St. Louis by earning it, and he's not giving it back.

13

GAA 3.17 SP .890

VILLE
HUSSO

ANAHEIM

CAP HIT: $2,200,000

POS G **AGE** 31
2025-26 STATS
10-8-2, 3.25, .884

Has so far failed to grab opportunities, so he's a little-used career backup now.

13

GAA 3.41 SP .890

TRISTAN
JARRY

EDMONTON

CAP HIT: $5,375,000

POS G **AGE** 31
2025-26 STATS
18-9-3, 3.32, .882

An expensive backup, but will be better with Oilers this year, because he couldn't be worse.

26

GAA 2.98 SP .900

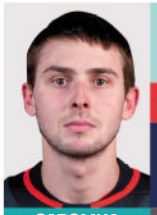
SPENCER
KNIGHT

CHICAGO

CAP HIT: $5,833,333

POS G **AGE** 25
2025-26 STATS
19-25-11, 2.82, .902

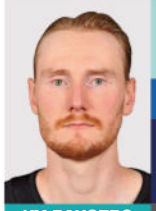
He's going to play as many games as any goalie this year. Wins won't be as plentiful.



18
GAA 2.67 SP .900
PYOTR KOCHETKOV
CAROLINA
CAP HIT: $2,000,000

POS G **AGE** 27
2025-26 STATS
6-2-0, 2.33, .899

Squeezed out last year but is plenty experienced enough for a backup role. Can play a lot.



15
GAA 3.10 SP .895
JOONAS KORPISALO
NY RANGERS
CAP HIT: $4,000,000

POS G **AGE** 32
2025-26 STATS
14-9-6, 3.15, .894

Not much to get excited about. Veteran backup who posts mediocre numbers.

25
GAA 2.73 SP .895
DARCY KUEMPER
LOS ANGELES
CAP HIT: $5,250,000

POS G **AGE** 36
2025-26 STATS
19-14-15, 2.78, .891

He has his good years and bad years. If it's consistency you want, look elsewhere.

13
GAA 3.32 SP .888
KEVIN LANKINEN
VANCOUVER
CAP HIT: $4,500,000

POS G **AGE** 31
2025-26 STATS
11-27-5, 3.70, .875

Terrible year, even by terrible-team standards. He will play far less if Demko is healthy.

10
GAA 3.29 SP .885
CHARLIE LINDGREN
WASHINGTON
CAP HIT: $3,000,000

POS G **AGE** 32
2025-26 STATS
9-8-3, 3.52, .879

Once considered a potential No. 1, he now has to worry about keeping job as a No. 2.

20
GAA 2.43 SP .910
UKKO-PEKKA LUUKKONEN
BUFFALO
CAP HIT: $4,750,000

POS G **AGE** 27
2025-26 STATS
22-9-3, 2.52, .910

Supposed to be the No. 1 in Buffalo, but he's really 1A with Lyon. Hot hand plays.

18
GAA 2.61 SP .909
ALEX LYON
BUFFALO
CAP HIT: $1,500,000

POS G **AGE** 33
2025-26 STATS
20-10-4, 2.77, .907

Came in as a backup and went out as a Lyon, basically securing a 1A share for starter's job.

33
GAA 2.48 SP .903
JACOB MARKSTROM
FLORIDA
CAP HIT: $6,000,000

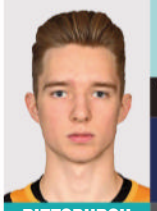
POS G **AGE** 36
2025-26 STATS
23-19-1, 3.07, .883

Should improve from fourth-worst SP among goalies with at least 40 games last year.

13
GAA 3.31 SP .890
ELVIS MERZLIKINS
COLUMBUS
CAP HIT: $5,400,000

POS G **AGE** 32
2025-26 STATS
14-11-3, 3.40, .883

Weak numbers have pushed the former No. 1 goalie into the backup job in Columbus.



16
GAA 3.14 SP .892
SERGEI MURASHOV
PITTSBURGH
CAP HIT: $936,110

POS G **AGE** 22
2025-26 AHL STATS
24-9-4, 2.20, .919

Some very good minor-league seasons mean he's at least a backup with upside.

15
GAA 2.81 SP .898
ALEX NEDELJKOVIC
SAN JOSE
CAP HIT: $3,000,000

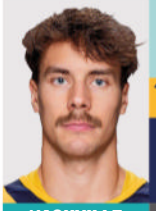
POS G **AGE** 30
2025-26 STATS
18-14-4, 2.87, .896

He's No. 2 in San Jose but not necessarily a backup in the classic sense. He'll play a lot.

37
GAA 2.47 SP .902
JAKE OETTINGER
DALLAS
CAP HIT: $8,250,000

POS G **AGE** 27
2025-26 STATS
35-12-6, 2.59, .899

He'll play close to 60 games and has had at least 35 wins for four seasons in a row.



29
GAA 2.75 SP .901
JUUSE SAROS
NASHVILLE
CAP HIT: $7,740,000

POS G **AGE** 31
2025-26 STATS
28-22-8, 3.16, .894

Will play 60 games and win around 30, so he's a good second-tier goalie option.

17
GAA 2.51 SP .900
AKIRA SCHMID
FLORIDA
CAP HIT: $2,000,000

POS G **AGE** 26
2025-26 STATS
16-10-6, 2.59, .893

Standard backup will get some wins on a Florida team expecting great improvement.

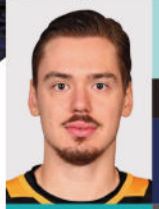
26
GAA 2.61 SP .910
IGOR SHESTERKIN
NY RANGERS
CAP HIT: $11,567,857

POS G **AGE** 30
2025-26 STATS
25-19-6, 2.50, .912

One of the league's best goalies, but on a weak team, wins are tougher to get.

GOALIES

SILOVS - WOLL



26

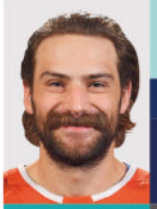
GAA 2.89 SP .902

ARTURS **SILOVS**

PITTSBURGH | CAP HIT: $2,800,000

POS G **AGE** 25
2025-26 STATS
19-12-8, 3.07, .888

Took over Pens' No. 1 spot but will need to improve to keep it. In other words, he's a risk.



12

GAA 3.03 SP .890

STUART **SKINNER**

WINNIPEG | CAP HIT: $3,750,000

POS G **AGE** 27
2025-26 STATS
23-17-9, 2.92, .888

Past success but less lately. Streak of three 50-start seasons in a row will surely end.

31

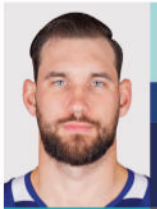
GAA 2.65 SP .905

ILYA **SOROKIN**

NY ISLANDERS | CAP HIT: $8,250,000

POS G **AGE** 31
2025-26 STATS
29-24-2, 2.68, .906

Consistently one of the league's best year after year. League's safest goalie pick.



16

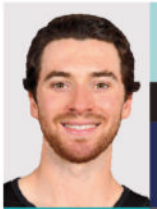
GAA 2.89 SP .902

ANTHONY **STOLARZ**

TORONTO | CAP HIT: $3,750,000

POS G **AGE** 32
2025-26 STATS
10-10-3, 3.28, .893

Injured much too often, but he has a history of playing well when he is healthy.



32

GAA 2.81 SP .905

JEREMY **SWAYMAN**

BOSTON | CAP HIT: $8,250,000

POS G **AGE** 27
2025-26 STATS
31-18-4, 2.71, .908

Nice comeback from a horrible season. He's now in the 30-win, 60-game range.

10

GAA 2.98 SP .895

DANIIL **TARASOV**

DETROIT | CAP HIT: $2,000,000

POS G **AGE** 27
2025-26 STATS
13-15-3, 3.05, .895

Oddity for a goalie: he's never had a winning record in four backup seasons. Stay clear.

35

GAA 2.48 SP .910

LOGAN **THOMPSON**

WASHINGTON | CAP HIT: $5,850,000

POS G **AGE** 29
2025-26 STATS
31-21-6, 2.44, .912

Now that he's shown he can handle a heavy workload, it will become the norm.

30

GAA 2.65 SP .900

LINUS **ULLMARK**

OTTAWA | CAP HIT: $8,250,000

POS G **AGE** 33
2025-26 STATS
28-12-8, 2.73, .891

He misses too much time to be a reliable option. And he's been mediocre anyway.

39

GAA 2.18 SP .914

ANDREI **VASILEVSKIY**

TAMPA BAY | CAP HIT: $9,500,000

POS G **AGE** 32
2025-26 STATS
39-15-4, 2.31, .911

When you're one of the best goalies on one of the best teams, that's goalie gold.

34

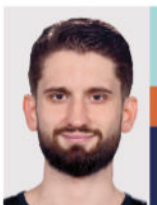
GAA 2.61 SP .900

KAREL **VEJMELKA**

UTAH | CAP HIT: $4,750,000

POS G **AGE** 30
2025-26 STATS
38-20-3, 2.75, .897

Played the most games last year and finished second in wins. Both make him valuable.



25

GAA 2.43 SP .905

DAN **VLADAR**

PHILADELPHIA | CAP HIT: $3,350,000

POS G **AGE** 29
2025-26 STATS
29-14-7, 2.42, .906

Signed a long-term deal, so at the very least, he's going to be a 1A goalie for some time.

28

GAA 2.61 SP .911

JESPER **WALLSTEDT**

MINNESOTA | CAP HIT: $2,200,000

POS G **AGE** 23
2025-26 STATS
18-9-6, 2.61, .915

He's an often-used backup for now but has to be the No. 1 guy eventually.

32

GAA 2.12 SP .915

SCOTT **WEDGEWOOD**

COLORADO | CAP HIT: $2,500,000

POS G **AGE** 34
2025-26 STATS
31-6-6, 2.02, .921

Put up better numbers than Blackwood last year, but it will be close to a 50-50 split.

23

GAA 2.88 SP .902

DUSTIN **WOLF**

CALGARY | CAP HIT: $7,500,000

POS G **AGE** 25
2025-26 STATS
23-29-3, 3.01, .899

A little tougher the second time around for 2025 Calder finalist, but his future is bright.

22

GAA 2.61 SP .903

JOSEPH **WOLL**

PHILADELPHIA | CAP HIT: $3,666,667

POS G **AGE** 28
2025-26 STATS
15-16-7, 3.34, .899

He'll have no problem being a 1A goalie, but availability for games has been an issue.

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NHL CHECKLIST

Skater and goalie projections are provided by fantasy expert Murray Townsend. Projections for 600-plus skaters are in team previews on the Points-O-Meter

	PLAYER	D	GP	G	A	PTS
		(DEFENSEMAN)				
1.	Connor McDavid, Edm		80	50	91	141
2.	Nathan MacKinnon, Col		81	50	83	133
3.	Nikita Kucherov, TB		78	45	86	131
4.	Macklin Celebrini, SJ		82	52	72	124
5.	Leon Draisaitl, Edm		77	51	67	118
6.	David Pastrnak, Bos		84	44	65	109
7.	Evan Bouchard, Edm	D	84	25	80	105
8.	Martin Necas, Col		80	42	60	102
9.	Jack Hughes, NJ		75	35	65	100
10.	Mark Scheifele, Wpg		84	40	58	98
11.	Kirill Kaprizov, Min		81	51	46	97
12.	Kyle Connor, Wpg		84	41	55	96
13.	Nick Suzuki, Mtl		84	33	63	96
14.	Mikko Rantanen, Dal		73	33	61	94
15.	Clayton Keller, Uth		83	31	61	92
16.	Mitch Marner, Veg		83	25	66	91
17.	Jason Robertson, Dal		84	40	50	90
18.	Artemi Panarin, LA		81	35	55	90
19.	Jack Eichel, Veg		78	30	60	90
20.	Matthew Tkachuk, Fla		76	27	63	90
21.	Cale Makar, Col	D	80	25	65	90
22.	Wyatt Johnston, Dal		84	46	43	89
23.	William Nylander, Tor		82	41	48	89
24.	Jake Guentzel, TB		82	40	48	88
25.	Sidney Crosby, Pit		81	33	55	88
26.	Cole Caufield, Mtl		83	45	42	87
27.	Matt Boldy, Min		80	38	49	87
28.	Rasmus Dahlin, Buf	D	79	30	57	87
29.	Tim Stutzle, Ott		81	32	53	85
30.	Tage Thompson, Buf		80	43	40	83
31.	Sebastian Aho, Car		80	31	52	83
32.	Jesper Bratt, NJ		84	25	58	83
33.	Quinn Hughes, Min	D	82	12	71	83
34.	Brayden Point, TB		78	38	44	82
35.	Zach Werenski, Clb	D	82	22	60	82
36.	Brandon Hagel, TB		82	36	45	81
37.	Dylan Guenther, Uth		80	47	33	80

	PLAYER	D	GP	G	A	PTS
		(DEFENSEMAN)				
38.	Cutter Gauthier, Ana		79	45	35	80
39.	Auston Matthews, Tor		76	43	37	80
40.	Brady Tkachuk, Fla		82	35	45	80
41.	Robert Thomas, StL		76	25	55	80
42.	Aleksander Barkov, Fla		74	23	57	80
43.	Matthew Schaefer, NYI	D	83	30	49	79
44.	Adam Fantilli, Clb		84	35	43	78
45.	Matthew Knies, Tor		80	32	46	78
46.	Filip Forsberg, Nsh		82	35	42	77
47.	Sam Reinhart, Fla		77	36	40	76
48.	Leo Carlsson, Ana		75	33	43	76
49.	Mat Barzal, NYI		78	22	54	76
50.	Alex DeBrincat, Det		84	38	37	75
51.	Andrei Svechnikov, Car		81	36	39	75
52.	Drake Batherson, Ott		82	35	40	75
53.	Dylan Holloway, StL		79	35	40	75
54.	Lucas Raymond, Det		83	25	50	75
55.	Lane Hutson, Mtl	D	84	11	63	74
56.	Ivan Demidov, Mtl		83	28	45	73
57.	Travis Konecny, Phi		81	30	42	72
58.	Nikolaj Ehlers, Car		83	28	44	72
59.	Adrian Kempe, LA		82	36	35	71
60.	Gabe Vilardi, Wpg		81	33	38	71
61.	Connor Bedard, Chi		62	30	41	71
62.	Will Smith, SJ		79	30	41	71
63.	Kirill Marchenko, Clb		80	25	46	71
64.	Alex Tuch, Wsh		80	35	35	70
65.	Dylan Larkin, Det		76	32	38	70
66.	Mika Zibanejad, NYR		83	30	40	70
67.	Nick Schmaltz, Uth		83	30	40	70
68.	Quinton Byfield, LA		81	35	33	68
69.	Nico Hischier, NJ		82	33	35	68
70.	Bryan Rust, Pit		77	32	36	68
71.	Logan Cooley, Uth		77	30	38	68
72.	Beckett Sennecke, Ana		84	27	41	68
73.	Juraj Slafkovsky, Mtl		83	27	41	68
74.	Evgeni Malkin, Pit		78	23	45	68

SKATERS

PROJECTED TOTALS

	PLAYER	D	GP	G	A	PTS
75.	Jimmy Snuggerud, StL		81	30	37	67
76.	Roope Hintz, Dal		77	25	42	67
77.	Trevor Zegras, Phi		82	23	44	67
78.	Miro Heiskanen, Dal	D	76	12	55	67
79.	Dylan Strome, Wsh		82	25	41	66
80.	Pavel Dorofeyev, NYR		84	35	30	65
81.	Bo Horvat, NYI		80	32	33	65
82.	Porter Martone, Phi		80	31	34	65
83.	Kevin Fiala, LA		78	25	40	65
84.	Tom Wilson, Wsh		73	32	32	64
85.	Brad Marchand, Fla		71	28	36	64
86.	Alexis Lafreniere, NYR		84	27	37	64
87.	Mark Stone, Veg		65	23	41	64
88.	Elias Pettersson, Van		79	22	42	64
89.	Jake Sanderson, Ott	D	78	16	48	64
90.	John Tavares, Tor		81	28	35	63
91.	Tomas Hertl, Veg		81	28	35	63
92.	Matt Duchene, Dal		75	25	38	63
93.	William Eklund, Ott		81	22	41	63
94.	Ryan Nugent-Hopkins, Edm		76	21	42	63
95.	Brock Nelson, Col		83	31	31	62
96.	Rickard Rakell, Pit		76	31	31	62
97.	Jordan Kyrou, Wsh		81	30	32	62
98.	Aliaksei Protas, Wsh		78	30	32	62
99.	Jack Quinn, Buf		80	25	37	62
100.	Ryan O'Reilly, Nsh		82	23	39	62
101.	Jonathan Huberdeau, Cgy		78	21	41	62
102.	Josh Morrissey, Wpg	D	78	14	48	62
103.	Adam Fox, NYR	D	77	11	51	62
104.	Alex Ovechkin, Wsh		81	31	30	61
105.	Dylan Cozens, Ott		83	30	31	61
106.	Roman Josi, Nsh	D	76	15	46	61
107.	Filip Hronek, Van	D	82	12	49	61
108.	Mikhail Sergachev, Uth	D	80	11	50	61
109.	Morgan Geekie, Bos		82	35	25	60
110.	Jared McCann, Sea		80	30	30	60
111.	JJ Peterka, Bos		83	27	33	60
112.	Nazem Kadri, Col		80	26	34	60
113.	Joel Eriksson Ek, Min		77	25	35	60
114.	Matvei Michkov, Phi		82	25	35	60
115.	Jakob Chychrun, Wsh	D	81	25	35	60
116.	Marco Rossi, Van		79	24	36	60
117.	Shayne Gostisbehere, Car	D	78	15	45	60
118.	Steven Stamkos, Nsh		84	27	32	59
119.	Anthony Cirelli, TB		78	26	33	59
120.	Ivan Barbashev, Veg		83	25	34	59
121.	Michael Misa, SJ		80	24	35	59
122.	Bowen Byram, Chi	D	83	17	42	59
123.	Erik Karlsson, Pit	D	83	13	46	59

DAVID KIROUAC-IMAGN IMAGES

	PLAYER	D	GP	G	A	PTS
124.	Zach Hyman, Edm		78	35	23	58
125.	Matt Coronato, Cgy		79	26	32	58
126.	Zach Benson, Buf		77	20	38	58
127.	J.T. Miller, NYR		73	20	38	58
128.	Darren Raddysh, Tor	D	75	13	45	58
129.	Moritz Seider, Det	D	84	12	46	58
130.	Anton Frondell, Chi		79	25	32	57
131.	Connor McMichael, StL		80	25	32	57
132.	Pavel Zacha, Bos		80	22	35	57
133.	Mikael Granlund, Ana		77	17	39	56
134.	Luke Evangelista, Nsh		81	15	41	56
135.	Jackson Blake, Car		82	25	30	55
136.	Mason McTavish, StL		77	25	30	55
137.	Ryan Leonard, Wsh		82	25	30	55
138.	Matty Beniers, Sea		81	22	33	55
139.	Patrick Kane, Chi		73	20	35	55
140.	Cole Perfetti, Wpg		76	20	35	55
141.	Pierre-Luc Dubois, Wsh		80	20	35	55
142.	Charlie McAvoy, Bos	D	72	10	45	55
143.	Victor Hedman, TB	D	72	10	45	55
144.	Logan Stankoven, Car		83	27	27	54
145.	Matt Savoie, Edm		83	26	28	54
146.	Carter Verhaeghe, Fla		80	23	31	54
147.	Vincent Trocheck, Uth		81	21	33	54
148.	Timo Meier, NJ		80	25	28	53
149.	Josh Norris, Buf		65	27	25	52
150.	Owen Tippett, Phi		80	27	25	52

SKATERS

PROJECTED TOTALS

	PLAYER	D	GP	G	A	PTS
151.	Morgan Frost, Cgy		83	24	28	52
152.	Pavel Buchnevich, StL		71	20	32	52
153.	Elias Lindholm, Bos		80	18	34	52
154.	Chandler Stephenson, Sea		80	16	36	52
155.	Gavin McKenna, Tor		81	15	37	52
156.	Brandt Clarke, LA	D	81	12	40	52
157.	Josh Doan, Buf		80	25	25	50
158.	Alex Newhook, Mtl		79	25	25	50
159.	Mavrik Bourque, Nsh		83	25	25	50
160.	Jake DeBrusk, Van		82	25	25	50
161.	Artturi Lehkonen, Col		70	20	30	50
162.	Mats Zuccarello, LA		71	15	35	50
163.	Zayne Parekh, Cgy	D	79	12	38	50
164.	Cole Hutson, Wsh	D	78	12	38	50
165.	Jason Zucker, Buf		75	23	26	49
166.	Sam Bennett, Fla		77	23	26	49
167.	Frank Nazar, Chi		76	22	27	49
168.	Troy Terry, Ana		55	18	31	49
169.	Teuvo Teravainen, Chi		76	18	31	49
170.	Ivar Stenberg, SJ		78	18	31	49
171.	Bobby McMann, Sea		76	27	21	48
172.	Seth Jarvis, Car		55	23	25	48
173.	Roman Kantserov, Chi		80	22	26	48
174.	Simon Holmstrom, NYI		80	22	26	48
175.	Taylor Hall, Car		73	18	30	48
176.	Thomas Harley, Dal	D	77	12	36	48
177.	Tyson Foerster, Phi		78	27	20	47
178.	Matthew Wood, Nsh		79	24	23	47
179.	Kyle Palmieri, NYI		81	23	24	47
180.	Brock Boeser, Van		77	23	24	47
181.	Dmitri Voronkov, Clb		76	22	25	47
182.	Gabe Perreault, NYR		81	22	25	47
183.	Jake Neighbours, StL		83	22	25	47
184.	Mason Marchment, SJ		71	21	26	47
185.	Easton Cowan, Tor		82	17	30	47
186.	Kent Johnson, Clb		76	16	31	47
187.	Brock Faber, Min	D	81	12	35	47
188.	Tij Iginla, Uth		78	25	21	46
189.	Shane Wright, Sea		81	22	24	46
190.	Jordan Eberle, Sea		79	22	24	46
191.	Ryan McLeod, Buf		80	15	31	46
192.	William Karlsson, Veg		75	15	31	46
193.	Vince Dunn, Sea	D	79	11	35	46
194.	Shea Theodore, Veg	D	73	11	35	46
195.	Nick Lardis, Chi		80	27	18	45
196.	Yegor Chinakhov, Pit		78	24	21	45
197.	Valeri Nichushkin, Clb		71	20	25	45
198.	Gabriel Landeskog, Col		65	20	25	45
199.	Trevor Moore, LA		75	20	25	45

MATVEI GRIDIN

	PLAYER	D	GP	G	A	PTS
200.	Shane Pinto, Ott		78	20	25	45
201.	Linus Karlsson, Van		80	20	25	45
202.	Matvei Gridin, Cgy		81	18	27	45
203.	Calum Ritchie, NYI		76	17	28	45
204.	Kaapo Kakko, Sea		71	15	30	45
205.	Claude Giroux, Ott		84	15	30	45
206.	John Carlson, TB	D	75	10	35	45
207.	Viktor Arvidsson, Det		73	22	22	44
208.	Jack Roslovic, Tor		75	22	22	44
209.	Noah Cates, Phi		80	17	27	44
210.	Charlie Coyle, Clb		84	16	28	44
211.	Rasmus Andersson, Veg	D	82	11	33	44
212.	Jackson LaCombe, Ana	D	80	10	34	44
213.	Luke Hughes, NJ	D	82	8	36	44
214.	Brett Howden, Veg		80	25	18	43
215.	Tyler Bertuzzi, Chi		78	21	22	43
216.	Dawson Mercer, NJ		84	21	22	43
217.	Alex Laferriere, LA		81	20	23	43
218.	Conor Garland, Clb		82	18	25	43
219.	Brent Burns, Col	D	84	10	33	43
220.	Thomas Chabot, Ott	D	74	10	33	43
221.	Chris Kreider, Ana		76	22	20	42
222.	Will Cuylle, NYR		84	20	22	42
223.	Boone Jenner, Wsh		69	20	22	42
224.	Ben Kindel, Pit		81	19	23	42
225.	Danila Yurov, Min		77	18	24	42
226.	Arseny Gritsyuk, NJ		76	18	24	42

SERGEI BELSKI-IMAGN IMAGES

SKATERS

PROJECTED TOTALS

	PLAYER	D	GP	G	A	PTS
227.	Denton Mateychuk, Clb	D	80	17	25	42
228.	Oliver Bjorkstrand, NYR		80	17	25	42
229.	Igor Chernyshov, SJ		75	16	26	42
230.	Konsta Helenius, Buf		78	14	28	42
231.	Jamie Drysdale, Phi	D	81	10	32	42
232.	Morgan Rielly, Tor	D	78	7	35	42
233.	Joel Farabee, Cgy		84	21	20	41
234.	Anthony Mantha, NJ		77	21	20	41
235.	Nick Paul, Tor		77	20	21	41
236.	Vladimir Tarasenko, UFA		73	20	21	41
237.	Collin Graf, SJ		80	18	23	41
238.	Casey Mittelstadt, Bos		74	16	25	41
239.	Noah Dobson, Mtl	D	81	10	31	41
240.	Dougie Hamilton, NJ	D	74	10	31	41
241.	Sean Durzi, NYR	D	72	8	33	41
242.	Nicholas Robertson, Pit		79	21	19	40
243.	Tyler Seguin, Dal		60	20	20	40
244.	Vasily Podkolzin, Edm		83	20	20	40
245.	Fabian Zetterlund, Ott		83	20	20	40
246.	Anders Lee, Uth		84	20	20	40
247.	Lawson Crouse, Uth		83	20	20	40
248.	Kiefer Sherwood, SJ		79	18	22	40
249.	Dalibor Dvorsky, StL		79	18	22	40
250.	Vitali Pinchuk, Nsh		79	17	23	40
251.	Brayden Schenn, NYI		84	17	23	40
252.	Patrik Laine, UFA		65	16	24	40
253.	Eeli Tolvanen, UFA		81	16	24	40
254.	Mikael Backlund, Cgy		84	15	25	40
255.	Sean Monahan, Clb		75	15	25	40
256.	Cole Sillinger, Clb		82	15	25	40
257.	Anton Lundell, Fla		77	15	25	40
258.	Jonathan Marchessault, Nsh		77	15	25	40
259.	Christian Dvorak, Phi		81	15	25	40
260.	Tommy Novak, Pit		75	15	25	40
261.	Tyler Toffoli, SJ		77	15	25	40
262.	Kirby Dach, Mtl		70	14	26	40
263.	Conor Geekie, TB		75	14	26	40
264.	Alex Wennberg, SJ		80	13	27	40
265.	Matias Maccelli, NYI		76	12	28	40
266.	Marat Khusnutdinov, Bos		78	18	21	39
267.	Jordan Staal, Car		75	17	22	39
268.	Marco Kasper, Det		81	17	22	39
269.	Justin Sourdif, Wsh		80	17	22	39
270.	Jean-Gabriel Pageau, NYI		76	15	24	39
271.	Berkly Catton, Sea		76	15	24	39
272.	Jamie Benn, Dal		70	14	25	39
273.	Mattias Ekholm, Edm	D	76	6	33	39
274.	Yegor Sharangovich, Cgy		78	18	20	38
275.	Ryan Hartman, Min		78	18	20	38

	PLAYER	D	GP	G	A	PTS
276.	James Hagens, Bos		75	15	23	38
277.	Connor Zary, Cgy		74	15	23	38
278.	Simon Nemec, Cgy	D	80	15	23	38
279.	Brandon Montour, Sea	D	81	13	25	38
280.	Fraser Minten, Bos		83	18	19	37
281.	Andrei Kuzmenko, Pit		72	18	19	37
282.	Ilya Mikheyev, TB		80	17	20	37
283.	Blake Coleman, Min		79	15	22	37
284.	Travis Sanheim, Phi	D	83	10	27	37
285.	Aaron Ekblad, Fla	D	72	7	30	37
286.	Oliver Kapanen, Mtl		75	15	21	36
287.	Andre Burakovsky, Ott		75	13	23	36
288.	Ridly Greig, Ott		78	13	23	36
289.	Olen Zellweger, Buf	D	78	11	25	36
290.	Gustav Forsling, Fla	D	82	10	26	36
291.	Seth Jones, Fla	D	68	8	28	36
292.	Jacob Trouba, SJ	D	81	8	28	36
293.	Barrett Hayton, Uth		73	17	18	35
294.	Noah Ostlund, Buf		72	15	20	35
295.	Jordan Martinook, Car		80	15	20	35
296.	Jaden Schwartz, Col		76	15	20	35
297.	Nicolas Roy, Col		73	13	22	35
298.	Logan Mailloux, StL	D	78	12	23	35
299.	Sam Malinski, Col	D	80	5	30	35
300.	Alex Killorn, Ana		84	16	18	34

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GOALIES

PROJECTED TOTALS

LOGAN THOMPSON

	PLAYER	W	L	OT	SO	SP	GAA
1.	Andrei Vasilevskiy, TB	39	16	4	4	.914	2.18
2.	Jake Oettinger, Dal	37	14	6	4	.902	2.47
3.	Logan Thompson, Wsh	35	22	5	4	.910	2.48
4.	Karel Vejmelka, Uth	34	17	5	2	.900	2.61
5.	Jacob Markstrom, Fla	33	18	4	3	.903	2.48
6.	Brandon Bussi, Car	33	12	5	4	.901	2.55
7.	Lukas Dostal, Ana	33	18	6	3	.898	2.78
8.	Scott Wedgewood, Col	32	8	3	4	.915	2.12
9.	Jeremy Swayman, Bos	32	21	5	4	.905	2.81
10.	John Gibson, Det	32	22	5	2	.900	2.70
11.	Ilya Sorokin, NYI	31	21	5	4	.906	2.65
12.	Carter Hart, Veg	31	16	5	3	.907	2.42
13.	Jakub Dobes, Mtl	31	16	5	3	.905	2.52
14.	Linus Ullmark, Ott	30	16	6	3	.900	2.65
15.	Connor Hellebuyck, Wpg	30	23	5	2	.900	2.72
16.	Sergei Bobrovsky, Tor	29	17	5	2	.905	2.62
17.	Juuse Saros, Nsh	29	24	5	3	.901	2.75
18.	Mackenzie Blackwood, Col	28	8	3	2	.910	2.21
19.	Jet Greaves, Clb	28	21	5	4	.910	2.37
20.	Frederik Andersen, Edm	28	16	4	3	.902	2.89
21.	Jesper Wallstedt, Min	27	13	5	4	.911	2.61
22.	Joel Hofer, StL	27	22	4	3	.908	2.51
23.	Igor Shesterkin, NYR	26	21	5	1	.910	2.61
24.	Arturs Silovs, Pit	26	20	5	2	.902	2.89
25.	Spencer Knight, Chi	26	28	6	2	.900	2.98
26.	Dan Vladar, Phi	25	13	5	2	.905	2.43
27.	Joey Daccord, Sea	25	24	4	1	.899	2.87
28.	Yaroslav Askarov, SJ	25	21	5	2	.896	2.98
29.	Darcy Kuemper, LA	25	18	7	3	.895	2.73
30.	Jake Allen, NJ	24	23	4	2	.901	2.68
31.	Filip Gustavsson, Min	23	10	3	2	.905	2.72
32.	Dustin Wolf, Cgy	23	31	5	1	.902	2.88
33.	Thatcher Demko, Van	23	24	4	1	.900	2.92
34.	Joseph Woll, Phi	22	14	3	2	.903	2.61
35.	Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen, Buf	20	10	4	2	.910	2.43
36.	Alex Lyon, Buf	18	9	3	2	.909	2.61
37.	Pyotr Kochetkov, Car	18	11	3	2	.900	2.67
38.	Akira Schmid, Fla	17	8	2	1	.900	2.51
39.	Anton Forsberg, LA	17	13	3	1	.905	2.51
40.	Jacob Fowler, Mtl	17	10	3	1	.904	2.59
41.	Adin Hill, Veg	17	10	3	1	.889	2.77
42.	Samuel Ersson, Ott	17	10	3	1	.880	3.10
43.	Anthony Stolarz, Tor	16	12	3	2	.902	2.89
44.	David Rittich, NJ	16	13	2	1	.895	2.82
45.	Sergei Murashov, Pit	16	12	3	1	.892	3.14
46.	Philipp Grubauer, Sea	15	13	2	1	.901	2.76
47.	Alex Nedeljkovic, SJ	15	12	4	1	.898	2.81
48.	Joonas Korpisalo, NYR	15	13	2	1	.895	3.10
49.	Michael DiPietro, Bos	14	7	3	2	.908	2.57
50.	Casey DeSmith, Dal	14	7	4	2	.906	2.31
51.	Sebastian Cossa, Uth	14	10	2	2	.905	2.51
52.	Jordan Binnington, StL	14	12	3	1	.889	3.12
53.	Ville Husso, Ana	13	10	2	1	.890	3.17
54.	Elvis Merzlikins, Clb	13	12	3	1	.890	3.31
55.	Tristan Jarry, Edm	13	9	2	0	.890	3.41
56.	Kevin Lankinen, Van	13	16	2	1	.888	3.32
57.	Justus Annunen, Nsh	12	10	2	1	.903	2.65
58.	Stuart Skinner, Wpg	12	10	2	0	.890	3.03
59.	Colten Ellis, Buf	11	5	2	1	.905	2.78
60.	Jonas Johansson, TB	11	10	2	1	.889	2.78
61.	Daniil Tarasov, Det	10	10	3	1	.895	2.98
62.	Charlie Lindgren, Wsh	10	8	2	1	.885	3.29
63.	Devin Cooley, Cgy	9	11	3	1	.904	2.75
64.	Arvid Soderblom, Chi	8	12	2	0	.885	3.45

BOB FRID-IMAGN IMAGES

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2025-26 FINAL STANDINGS

Total NHL Games: 1,312 Total NHL Goals: 8,205 NHL Avg. Goals/Game: 6.25

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	OVERALL										HOME								ROAD							
	GP	W	L	OL	SL	ROW	GF	GA	P	PCT.	GP	W	L	OL	SL	GF	GA	P	GP	W	L	OL	SL	GF	GA	P
1. Carolina	82	53	22	3	4	48	296	240	113	.689	41	29	10	1	1	161	126	60	41	24	12	2	3	135	114	53
2. Buffalo	82	50	23	8	1	45	288	241	109	.665	41	26	10	4	1	149	119	57	41	24	13	4	0	139	122	52
3. Tampa Bay	82	50	26	4	2	46	290	231	106	.646	41	26	14	1	0	137	115	53	41	24	12	3	2	153	116	53
4. Montreal	82	48	24	5	5	44	283	256	106	.646	41	24	15	1	1	137	127	50	41	24	9	4	4	146	129	56
5. Boston	82	45	27	7	3	41	272	250	100	.610	41	29	11	0	1	145	105	59	41	16	16	7	2	127	145	41
6. Ottawa	82	44	27	10	1	41	278	246	99	.604	41	23	12	5	1	139	108	52	41	21	15	5	0	139	138	47
7. Pittsburgh	82	41	25	6	10	38	293	268	98	.598	41	20	13	3	5	150	143	48	41	21	12	3	5	143	125	50
8. Philadelphia	82	43	27	8	4	33	250	243	98	.598	41	20	13	6	2	111	113	48	41	23	14	2	2	139	130	50
9. Washington	82	43	30	3	6	41	263	244	95	.579	41	25	11	1	4	139	109	55	41	18	19	2	2	124	135	40
10. Detroit	82	41	31	6	4	39	241	258	92	.561	41	21	16	2	2	127	137	46	41	20	15	4	2	114	121	46
11. Columbus	82	40	30	10	2	33	253	253	92	.561	41	20	13	6	2	135	126	48	41	20	17	4	0	118	127	44
12. NY Islanders	82	43	34	0	5	39	233	241	91	.555	41	22	17	0	2	120	122	46	41	21	17	0	3	113	119	45
13. New Jersey	82	42	37	2	1	38	230	254	87	.530	41	21	17	2	1	121	124	45	41	21	20	0	0	109	130	42
14. Florida	82	40	38	2	2	35	251	276	84	.512	41	23	15	2	1	133	123	49	41	17	23	0	1	118	153	35
15. Toronto	82	32	36	10	4	31	253	299	78	.476	41	18	15	6	2	135	145	44	41	14	21	4	2	118	154	34
16. NY Rangers	82	34	39	8	1	31	238	250	77	.470	41	14	20	6	1	106	124	35	41	20	19	2	0	132	126	42

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	OVERALL										HOME								ROAD							
	GP	W	L	OL	SL	ROW	GF	GA	P	PCT.	GP	W	L	OL	SL	GF	GA	P	GP	W	L	OL	SL	GF	GA	P
1. Colorado	82	55	16	5	6	51	302	203	121	.738	41	26	9	2	4	157	108	58	41	29	7	3	2	145	95	63
2. Dallas	82	50	20	8	4	44	279	226	112	.683	41	26	11	2	2	135	112	56	41	24	9	6	2	144	114	56
3. Minnesota	82	46	24	7	5	42	272	240	104	.634	41	23	10	6	2	130	115	54	41	23	14	1	3	142	125	50
4. Vegas	82	39	26	9	8	38	265	250	95	.579	41	20	12	3	6	146	127	49	41	19	14	6	2	119	123	46
5. Edmonton	82	41	30	7	4	41	282	269	93	.567	41	22	14	2	3	143	140	49	41	19	16	5	1	139	129	44
6. Utah	82	43	33	6	0	43	268	240	92	.561	41	22	16	3	0	137	124	47	41	21	17	3	0	131	116	45
7. Anaheim	82	43	33	6	0	35	273	288	92	.561	41	24	13	4	0	145	143	52	41	19	20	2	0	128	145	40
8. Los Angeles	82	35	27	11	9	30	225	247	90	.549	41	15	17	5	4	108	128	39	41	20	10	6	5	117	119	51
9. St. Louis	82	37	33	8	4	36	231	258	86	.524	41	20	14	4	3	116	126	47	41	17	19	4	1	115	132	39
10. Nashville	82	38	34	8	2	33	247	269	86	.524	41	21	17	3	0	127	132	45	41	17	17	5	2	120	137	41
11. San Jose	82	39	35	6	2	37	251	292	86	.524	41	21	14	4	2	126	142	48	41	18	21	2	0	125	150	38
12. Winnipeg	82	35	35	8	4	33	231	260	82	.500	41	19	16	4	2	124	127	44	41	16	19	4	2	107	133	38
13. Seattle	82	34	37	5	6	32	226	263	79	.482	41	19	17	3	2	121	125	43	41	15	20	2	4	105	138	36
14. Calgary	82	34	39	6	3	30	212	259	77	.470	41	23	13	4	1	120	107	51	41	11	26	2	2	92	152	26
15. Chicago	82	29	39	9	5	26	213	275	72	.439	41	14	19	5	3	107	135	36	41	15	20	4	2	106	140	36
16. Vancouver	82	25	49	6	2	19	216	316	58	.354	41	9	27	3	2	101	160	23	41	16	22	3	0	115	156	35

TEAM PENALTIES

	PIM	BMI	AVG.
1. Colorado	597	12	7.3
2. Vegas	609	6	7.4
3. Seattle	616	5	7.5
4. New Jersey	618	4	7.5
5. Detroit	629	4	7.7
6. Carolina	640	6	7.8
7. NY Islanders	643	11	7.8
8. St. Louis	645	7	7.9
9. Minnesota	646	3	7.9
10. Winnipeg	653	8	8.0
11. Columbus	653	8	8.0
12. Pittsburgh	666	14	8.1
13. NY Rangers	667	4	8.1
14. Los Angeles	675	8	8.2
15. Dallas	703	10	8.6
16. Vancouver	707	8	8.6
17. Chicago	716	11	8.7
18. Nashville	719	3	8.8
19. San Jose	720	9	8.8
20. Edmonton	746	5	9.1
21. Toronto	756	12	9.2
22. Utah	776	9	9.5
23. Washington	783	11	9.5
24. Philadelphia	785	8	9.6
25. Ottawa	790	10	9.6
26. Buffalo	797	10	9.7
27. Anaheim	814	12	9.9
28. Montreal	849	8	10.4
29. Calgary	871	16	10.6
30. Florida	922	8	11.2
31. Boston	978	7	11.9
32. Tampa Bay	1,207	9	14.7

BMI: Bench penalty minutes

NHL PIM: 23,596

PENALTY KILL

	SH	PPGA	PCT.
1. Colorado	234	36	84.6
2. Chicago	238	39	83.6
3. Tampa Bay	258	45	82.6
4. Buffalo	232	42	81.9
5. Nashville	246	45	81.7
6. Pittsburgh	237	44	81.4
7. Vegas	204	38	81.4
8. Toronto	229	43	81.2
9. Florida	273	52	81.0
10. NY Islanders	214	41	80.8
11. Carolina	231	45	80.5
12. Calgary	245	48	80.4
13. Dallas	249	49	80.3
14. Washington	251	50	80.1
15. NY Rangers	249	50	79.9
16. Minnesota	213	43	79.8
17. New Jersey	208	43	79.3
18. Montreal	248	54	78.2
19. Utah	247	54	78.1
20. Edmonton	221	49	77.8
21. Winnipeg	228	51	77.6
22. Philadelphia	245	55	77.6
23. Detroit	210	48	77.1
24. Boston	278	64	77.0
25. St. Louis	223	52	76.7
26. San Jose	246	58	76.4
27. Anaheim	258	61	76.4
28. Columbus	221	53	76.0
29. Ottawa	235	57	75.7
30. Los Angeles	240	61	74.6
31. Seattle	216	60	72.2
32. Vancouver	228	65	71.5

SH: Shorthanded situations

PPGA: Power-play goals allowed

NHL Total SH: 7,555 **NHL PP Kills:** 5,960

POWER PLAY

	ADV	PPG	PCT.
1. Edmonton	222	68	30.6
2. Dallas	248	71	28.6
3. Minnesota	258	65	25.2
4. Carolina	241	60	24.9
5. NY Rangers	215	53	24.7
6. Vegas	236	58	24.6
7. Pittsburgh	232	56	24.1
8. Ottawa	263	63	24.0
9. Boston	235	55	23.4
10. Montreal	242	56	23.1
11. Nashville	238	55	23.1
12. Detroit	248	56	22.6
13. New Jersey	205	45	22.0
14. Vancouver	234	51	21.8
15. Toronto	197	42	21.3
16. San Jose	255	54	21.2
17. Tampa Bay	246	51	20.7
18. Utah	230	46	20.0
19. Florida	266	52	19.5
20. Seattle	220	43	19.5
21. Buffalo	246	48	19.5
22. Columbus	201	38	18.9
23. Anaheim	264	49	18.6
24. Winnipeg	227	42	18.5
25. Washington	241	43	17.8
26. St. Louis	216	38	17.6
27. Colorado	263	45	17.1
28. Los Angeles	224	38	17.0
29. Chicago	236	40	16.9
30. NY Islanders	242	40	16.5
31. Calgary	229	37	16.2
32. Philadelphia	235	37	15.7

Adv.: Advantages

PPG: Power-play goals

NHL PP: 7,555 **NHL PP goals:** 1,595

OVERALL STANDINGS

	GP	W	L	OT	RW	P	PCT.
1. Colorado	82	55	16	5	6	51	121
2. Carolina	82	53	22	3	4	48	113
3. Dallas	82	50	20	8	4	44	112
4. Buffalo	82	50	23	8	1	45	109
5. Tampa Bay	82	50	26	4	2	46	106
6. Montreal	82	48	24	5	5	44	106
7. Minnesota	82	46	24	7	5	42	104
8. Boston	82	45	27	7	3	41	100
9. Ottawa	82	44	27	10	1	41	99
10. Pittsburgh	82	41	25	6	10	38	98
11. Philadelphia	82	43	27	8	4	33	98
12. Washington	82	43	30	3	6	41	95
13. Vegas	82	39	26	9	8	38	95
14. Edmonton	82	41	30	7	4	41	93
15. Utah	82	43	33	6	0	43	92
16. Detroit	82	41	31	6	4	39	92
17. Columbus	82	40	30	10	2	33	92
18. Anaheim	82	43	33	6	0	35	92
19. NY Islanders	82	43	34	0	5	39	91
20. Los Angeles	82	35	27	11	9	30	90
21. New Jersey	82	42	37	2	1	38	87
22. St. Louis	82	37	33	8	4	36	86
23. Nashville	82	38	34	8	2	33	86
24. San Jose	82	39	35	6	2	37	86
25. Florida	82	40	38	2	2	35	84
26. Winnipeg	82	35	35	8	4	33	82
27. Seattle	82	34	37	5	6	32	79
28. Toronto	82	32	36	10	4	31	78
29. Calgary	82	34	39	6	3	30	77
30. NY Rangers	82	34	39	8	1	31	77
31. Chicago	82	29	39	9	5	26	72
32. Vancouver	82	25	49	6	2	19	58

DIVISION STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OL	SL	ROW	P
Buffalo	82	50	23	8	1	45	109
Tampa Bay	82	50	26	4	2	46	106
Montreal	82	48	24	5	5	44	106
Boston	82	45	27	7	3	41	100
Ottawa	82	44	27	10	1	41	99
Detroit	82	41	31	6	4	39	92
Florida	82	40	38	2	2	35	84
Toronto	82	32	36	10	4	31	78

METROPOLITAN	GP	W	L	OL	SL	ROW	P
Carolina	82	53	22	3	4	48	113
Pittsburgh	82	41	25	6	10	38	98
Philadelphia	82	43	27	8	4	33	98
Washington	82	43	30	3	6	41	95
Columbus	82	40	30	10	2	33	92
NY Islanders	82	43	34	0	5	39	91
New Jersey	82	42	37	2	1	38	87
NY Rangers	82	34	39	8	1	31	77

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OL	SL	ROW	P
Colorado	82	55	16	5	6	51	121
Dallas	82	50	20	8	4	44	112
Minnesota	82	46	24	7	5	42	104
Utah	82	43	33	6	0	43	92
St. Louis	82	37	33	8	4	36	86
Nashville	82	38	34	8	2	33	86
Winnipeg	82	35	35	8	4	33	82
Chicago	82	29	39	9	5	26	72

PACIFIC	GP	W	L	OL	SL	ROW	P
Vegas	82	39	26	9	8	38	95
Edmonton	82	41	30	7	4	41	93
Anaheim	82	43	33	6	0	35	92
Los Angeles	82	35	27	11	9	30	90
San Jose	82	39	35	6	2	37	86
Seattle	82	34	37	5	6	32	79
Calgary	82	34	39	6	3	30	77
Vancouver	82	25	49	6	2	19	58

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

TEAM	2024-25	2025-26
1. Montreal	21,105	20,962
2. Tampa Bay	19,092	20,203
3. Florida	19,059	19,822
4. Detroit	19,345	19,319
5. Chicago	19,130	18,949
6. Toronto	18,829	18,667
7. Vancouver	18,810	18,662
8. Dallas	18,392	18,532
9. Philadelphia	18,525	18,485
10. Carolina	18,795	18,373
11. Edmonton	18,347	18,308
12. Colorado	18,067	18,120
13. Minnesota	18,430	18,023
14. Washington	18,244	17,990
15. Vegas	17,975	17,929
16. Buffalo	15,998	17,853
17. Boston	17,852	17,850
18. St. Louis	17,724	17,847
19. NY Rangers	17,861	17,576
20. Calgary	17,655	17,549
21. Los Angeles	17,196	17,435
22. Seattle	17,151	17,151
23. Nashville	17,212	17,128
24. Ottawa	17,306	17,123
25. Pittsburgh	16,635	16,975
26. Columbus	18,935	16,878
27. NY Islanders	15,979	16,439
28. San Jose	14,219	16,173
29. New Jersey	16,154	16,145
30. Anaheim	15,806	15,670
31. Winnipeg	14,366	14,228
32. Utah	11,131	12,478

NECAS: SERGEI BELSKI-IMAGN IMAGES; HEDMAN: DAN HAMILTON-IMAGN IMAGES; DRAISAITL: PERRY NELSON-IMAGN IMAGES

CONNOR MCDAVID & GABRIEL LANDESKOG

AWARD WINNERS & ALL-STARS

NHL AWARDS

Hart Trophy (most valuable player)
Nikita Kucherov, Tampa Bay

Ted Lindsay Award (MVP voted by players)
Connor McDavid, Edmonton

Art Ross Trophy (top scorer)
Connor McDavid, Edmonton

Maurice Richard Trophy (top goal-scorer)
Nathan MacKinnon, Colorado

Calder Trophy (rookie of the year)
Matthew Schaefer, NY Islanders

Norris Trophy (outstanding defenseman)
Zach Werenski, Columbus

Vezina Trophy (outstanding goaltender)
Andrei Vasilevskiy, Tampa Bay

Lady Byng Trophy (most sportsmanlike)
Cole Caufield, Montreal

Selke Trophy (best defensive forward)
Nick Suzuki, Montreal

Jack Adams Award (coach of the year)
Jon Cooper, Tampa Bay

Jennings Trophy (lowest GAA)
S. Wedgewood & M. Blackwood, Colorado

Conn Smythe Trophy (playoff MVP)
Jordan Staal, Carolina

Masterton Trophy (perseverance)
Gabriel Landeskog, Colorado

King Clancy Trophy (humanitarian)
Marcus Foligno, Minnesota

FIRST-TEAM ALL-STARS

C Connor McDavid, Edmonton
LW Jason Robertson, Dallas
RW Nikita Kucherov, Tampa Bay
D Cale Makar, Colorado
D Zach Werenski, Columbus
G Andrei Vasilevskiy, Tampa Bay

SECOND-TEAM ALL-STARS

C Nathan MacKinnon, Colorado
LW Cole Caufield, Montreal
RW David Pastrnak, Boston
D Evan Bouchard, Edmonton
D Rasmus Dahlin, Buffalo
G Logan Thompson, Washington

NATHAN MACKINNON

THE HOCKEY NEWS AWARDS

Most Valuable Player
Nathan MacKinnon, Colorado

Best Player
Connor McDavid, Edmonton

Best Defenseman
Zach Werenski, Columbus

Best Goaltender
Ilya Sorokin, NY Islanders

Best Rookie
Matthew Schaefer, NY Islanders

Best Defensive Defenseman
Moritz Seider, Detroit

Comeback Player
Gabriel Landeskog, Colorado

Breakout Player
Macklin Celebrini, San Jose

Toughest Player
Mathieu Olivier, Columbus

Top Penalty-Killer
Anthony Cirelli, Tampa Bay

Best Coach
Lindy Ruff, Buffalo

Best GM
Chris MacFarland, Colorado

AWARD & ALL-STAR VOTING

NHL AWARDS

HART TROPHY 1. Nikita Kucherov, TB 1,436 (72-60-52-12-0); 2. Connor McDavid, EDM 1,426 (68-62-56-10-2); 3. Nathan MacKinnon, COL 1,297 (52-54-69-17-3); 4. Macklin Celebrini, SJ 625 (5-20-18-103-36); 5. Nick Suzuki, MTL 102 (1-0-0-19-35); 6. David Pastrnak, BOS 82 (0-0-1-11-44); 7. Zach Werenski, CLB 53 (0-0-0-10-23); 8. Cole Caufield, MTL 51 (0-2-1-6-14); 9. Rasmus Dahlin, BUF 16 (0-0-0-3-7); 10. Andrei Vasilevskiy, TB 12 (0-0-1-1-4)

CALDER TROPHY 1. Matthew Schaefer, NYI 1,980 (198-0-0-0-0); 2. Ivan Demidov, MTL 1,158 (0-120-48-25-3); 3. Beckett Sennecke, ANA 958 (0-41-110-38-7); 4. Jakub Dobes, MTL 529 (0-32-23-55-25); 5. Jimmy Snuggerud, STL 171 (0-2-6-25-52); 6. Jesper Wallstedt, MIN 139 (0-3-6-23-19); 7. Alexander Nikishin, CAR 92 (0-0-2-14-40); 8. Ryan Leonard, WSH 36 (0-0-1-4-19); 9. Ben Kindel, PIT 33 (0-0-2-4-11); 10. Fraser Minten, BOS 30 (0-0-0-6-12)

NORRIS TROPHY 1. Zach Werenski, CLB 1,589 (113-48-16-13-4); 2. Cale Makar, COL 1,191 (47-62-37-30-12); 3. Rasmus Dahlin, BUF 657 (13-23-50-30-26) 4. Evan Bouchard, EDM 593 (12-22-36-32-43); 5. Moritz Seider, DET 360 (5-21-15-21-25) 6. Lane Hutson, MTL 357 (3-13-20-31-43); 7. Quinn Hughes, MIN 282 (5-6-21-22-19); 8. Miro Heiskanen, DAL 52 (0-3-1-6-8); 9. Erik Karlsson, PIT 16 (0-0-1-3-2); 10. Jake Sanderson, OTT 16 (0-0-0-4-4)

VEZINA TROPHY 1. Andrei Vasilevskiy, TB 114 (17-9-2); 2. Ilya Sorokin, NYI 51 (8-1-8); 3. Jeremy Swayman, BOS 46 (2-9-9); 4. Logan Thompson, WSH 29 (2-4-7); 5. Scott Wedgewood, COL 21 (2-3-2); 6. Dan Vladar, PHI 9 (0-2-3); 7. Igor Shesterkin, NYR 6 (0-2-0); 8. Jake Oettinger, DAL 3 (0-1-0)

JACK ADAMS AWARD 1. Jon Cooper, TB 226 (36-12-10); 2. Lindy Ruff, BUF 223 (26-26-15); 3. Dan Muse, PIT 199 (18-29-22); 4. Jared Bednar, COL 66 (4-13-7); 5. Martin St-Louis, MTL 50 (4-7-9); 6. Travis Green, OTT 43 (4-5-8); 7. Rick Tocchet, PHI 27 (3-2-6); 8. Marco Sturm, BOS 25 (1-3-11); 9. Rod Brind'Amour, CAR 20 (3-1-2); 10. Glen Gulutzan, DAL 4 (0-0-4)

FRANK SELKE TROPHY 1. Nick Suzuki, MTL 1,726 (151-23-6-7-4); 2. Anthony Cirelli, TB 467 (10-34-18-10-9); 3. Brock Nelson, COL 406 (4-28-22-16-12); 4. Mitch Marner, VEG 356 (3-27-14-18-13); 5. Jordan Staal, CAR 310 (7-14-19-12-11); 6. Shane Pinto, OTT 288 (8-7-19-16-16); 7. Jack Eichel, VEG 215 (1-10-15-15-15); 8. Sebastian Aho, CAR 182 (4-7-15-4-6); 9. Nico Hischier, NJ 149 (2-10-7-5-9); 10. Yanni Gourde, TB 130 (1-6-8-10-8)

LADY BYNG TROPHY 1. Cole Caufield, MTL 776 (45-22-25-13-8); 2. Anze Kopitar, LA 602 (38-22-6-9-11); 3. Jake Sanderson, OTT 585 (28-25-18-11-7); 4. Zach Werenski, CLB 468 (21-17-21-8-10); 5. Kyle Connor, WPG 348 (6-22-18-11-11); 6. Jack Eichel, VEG 306 (8-14-14-16-10); 7. Jack Hughes, NJ 213 (6-10-12-6-5); 8. Nick Suzuki, MTL 209 (13-3-5-9-6); 9. Mark Stone, VEG 183 (7-8-7-6-4); 10. Jean-Gabriel Pageau, NYI 102 (3-7-3-0-8)

NHL ALL-STAR TEAM

GOALTENDER 1. Andrei Vasilevskiy, TB 759 (131-29-17); 2. Logan Thompson, WSH 353 (27-55-53); 3. Ilya Sorokin, NYI 300 (25-48-31); 4. Scott Wedgewood, COL 150 (9-29-18); 5. Jeremy Swayman, BOS 150 (5-28-41); 6. Karel Vejmelka, UTH 21 (0-3-12); 7. Dan Vladar, PHI 10 (0-2-4); 8. Jake Oettinger, DAL 10 (0-1-7); 9. Igor Shesterkin, NYR 9 (0-0-9); 10. Brandon Bussi, CAR 6 (0-1-3)

DEFENSE 1. Zach Werenski, CLB 864 (149-37-8); 2. Cale Makar, COL 759 (108-68-15); 3. Evan Bouchard, EDM 483 (45-64-66); 4. Rasmus Dahlin, BUF 451 (34-73-62); 5. Lane Hutson, MTL 315 (16-50-85); 6. Quinn Hughes, MIN 266 (14-46-58); 7. Moritz Seider, DET 258 (24-34-36); 8. Miro Heiskanen, DAL 53 (3-5-23); 9. Matthew Schaefer, NYI 28 (0-5-13); 10. Jake Sanderson, OTT 21 (0-4-9)

CENTER 1. Connor McDavid, EDM 823 (118-77-2); 2. Nathan MacKinnon, COL 723 (77-109-11); 3. Macklin Celebrini, SJ 207 (2-11-164); 4. Nick Suzuki, MTL 16 (0-0-16); 5. Sidney Crosby, PIT 3 (0-0-3); 6. Mark Scheifele, WPG 1 (0-0-1)

LEFT WING 1. Jason Robertson, DAL 716 (95-72-25); 2. Cole Caufield, MTL 564 (80-43-35); 3. Kirill Kaprizov, MIN 379 (20-64-87); 4. Kyle Connor, WPG 68 (1-11-30); 5. Brandon Hagel, TB 12 (1-1-4); 6. Matt Boldy, MIN 12 (0-2-6); 7. Jake Guentzel, TBL, 10 (0-1-7); 8. Artemi Panarin, LAK, 8 (0-2-2); 9. Lucas Raymond, DET, 3 (0-1-0); 10. Clayton Keller, UTA, 1 (0-0-1)

RIGHT WING 1. Nikita Kucherov, TB 983 (196-1-0); 2. David Pastrnak, BOS 482 (0-149-35); 3. Martin Necas, COL 120 (1-24-43); 4. Matt Boldy, MIN 72 (0-4-60); 5. Cole Caufield, MTL 40 (0-9-13); 6. Mitch Marner, VEG 26 (0-5-11); 7. Clayton Keller, UTH 22 (0-2-16); 8. Alex DeBrincat, DET 15 (0-2-9); 9. Mark Stone, VEG 4 (0-1-1); 10. Mikko Rantanen, DAL 4 (0-0-4)

MCDAVID: PERRY NELSON-IMAGN IMAGES; MACKINNON: STEPHEN R. SYLVANIE-IMAGN IMAGES

POINTS

	PLAYER	TEAM	GP	G	A	P
1.	Connor McDavid	EDM	82	48	90	138
2.	Nikita Kucherov	TB	76	44	86	130
3.	Nathan MacKinnon	COL	80	53	74	127
4.	Macklin Celebrini	SJ	82	45	70	115
5.	Mark Scheifele	WPG	82	36	67	103
6.	Nick Suzuki	MTL	82	29	72	101
7.	Martin Necas	COL	78	38	62	100
8.	David Pastrnak	BOS	77	29	71	100
9.	Leon Draisaitl	EDM	65	35	62	97
10.	Jason Robertson	DAL	82	45	51	96
11.	Evan Bouchard	EDM	82	21	74	95
12.	Kyle Connor	WPG	82	39	53	92
13.	Jack Eichel	VEG	74	27	63	90
14.	Kirill Kaprizov	MIN	78	45	44	89
15.	Cole Caufield	MTL	81	51	37	88
16.	Jake Guentzel	TB	81	38	50	88
17.	Clayton Keller	UTH	82	26	62	88
18.	Wyatt Johnston	DAL	82	45	41	86
19.	Matt Boldy	MIN	76	42	43	85
20.	Alex DeBrincat	DET	82	41	44	85
21.	Artemi Panarin	NYR,LA	78	28	56	84
22.	Tim Stutzle	OTT	80	34	49	83
23.	Tage Thompson	BUF	81	40	41	81
24.	Zach Werenski	CLB	75	22	59	81
25.	Sebastian Aho	CAR	79	27	53	80
26.	Mitch Marner	VEG	81	24	56	80
27.	William Nylander	TOR	65	30	49	79
28.	Cale Makar	COL	75	20	59	79
29.	Mika Zibanejad	NYR	81	34	44	78
30.	Lane Hutson	MTL	82	12	66	78
31.	Jack Hughes	NJ	61	27	50	77
32.	Mikko Rantanen	DAL	64	22	55	77
33.	Lucas Raymond	DET	80	25	51	76
34.	Quinn Hughes	VAN,MIN	74	7	69	76
35.	Filip Forsberg	NSH	82	40	35	75
36.	Connor Bedard	CHI	69	30	45	75
37.	Brandon Hagel	TB	71	36	38	74
38.	Nick Schmaltz	UTH	82	33	41	74
39.	Sidney Crosby	PIT	68	29	45	74
40.	Ryan O'Reilly	NSH	81	25	49	74
41.	Rasmus Dahlin	BUF	77	19	55	74
42.	Dylan Guenther	UTH	79	40	33	73
43.	Adrian Kempe	LA	81	36	37	73
44.	Juraj Slafkovsky	MTL	82	30	43	73
45.	Mark Stone	VEG	60	28	45	73
46.	Mat Barzal	NYI	81	19	53	72
47.	Drake Batherson	OTT	79	33	38	71
48.	John Tavares	TOR	82	31	40	71
49.	Nikolaj Ehlers	CAR	82	26	45	71
50.	Jesper Bratt	NJ	82	22	49	71
51.	Andrei Svechnikov	CAR	79	31	39	70
52.	Darren Raddysh	TB	73	22	48	70
53.	Cutter Gauthier	ANA	76	41	28	69
54.	Gabriel Vilardi	WPG	82	30	39	69
55.	Morgan Geekie	BOS	81	39	29	68
56.	Travis Konecny	PHI	77	27	41	68
57.	Dylan Larkin	DET	74	34	33	67
58.	Leo Carlsson	ANA	70	29	38	67
59.	Kirill Marchenko	CLB	76	27	40	67
60.	Trevor Zegras	PHI	81	26	41	67
61.	Steven Stamkos	NSH	82	42	24	66
62.	Alex Tuch	BUF	79	33	33	66
63.	Seth Jarvis	CAR	71	32	34	66
64.	Nico Hischier	NJ	82	28	38	66
65.	Matthew Knies	TOR	79	23	43	66
66.	Erik Karlsson	PIT	75	15	51	66
67.	Brock Nelson	COL	81	33	32	65
68.	Pavel Zacha	BOS	78	30	35	65
69.	Bryan Rust	PIT	72	29	36	65
70.	Pavel Dorofeyev	VEG	82	37	27	64
71.	Anthony Mantha	PIT	81	33	31	64
72.	Alex Ovechkin	WSH	82	32	32	64
73.	Robert Thomas	STL	64	25	39	64
74.	Miro Heiskanen	DAL	77	9	54	63
75.	Tom Wilson	WSH	72	30	32	62
76.	Ivan Demidov	MTL	82	19	43	62
77.	Sam Reinhart	FLA	64	29	32	61
78.	Ivan Barbashev	VEG	82	23	38	61
79.	Evgeni Malkin	PIT	56	19	42	61
80.	Charlie McAvoy	BOS	69	11	50	61
81.	Jakob Chychrun	WSH	80	26	34	60
82.	Beckett Sennecke	ANA	82	23	37	60
83.	John Carlson	WSH,ANA	71	14	46	60
84.	Moritz Seider	DET	82	10	50	60
85.	Dylan Cozens	OTT	82	28	31	59
86.	Adam Fantilli	CLB	82	24	35	59
87.	Will Smith	SJ	69	24	35	59
88.	Matthew Schaefer	NYI	82	23	36	59
89.	Brady Tkachuk	OTT	60	22	37	59
90.	Mikhail Sergachev	UTH	78	10	49	59
91.	Tyler Bertuzzi	CHI	79	32	26	58
92.	Sam Bennett	FLA	76	26	32	58
93.	Tomas Hertl	VEG	82	24	34	58
94.	Charlie Coyle	CLB	82	20	38	58
95.	Dylan Strome	WSH	80	19	39	58
96.	Jackson LaCombe	ANA	82	10	48	58
97.	Bo Horvat	NYI	68	31	26	57
98.	Alexis Lafreniere	NYR	82	24	33	57
99.	Troy Terry	ANA	61	19	38	57
100.	Patrick Kane	DET	67	16	41	57
101.	Ryan Nugent-Hopkins	EDM	72	20	36	56
102.	Luke Evangelista	NSH	81	12	44	56
103.	Jordan Eberle	SEA	80	26	29	55
104.	Carter Verhaeghe	FLA	77	25	30	55
105.	Alexander Wennberg	SJ	80	18	37	55
106.	Josh Morrissey	WPG	77	14	41	55
107.	Roman Josi	NSH	68	13	42	55
108.	Brad Marchand	FLA	52	27	27	54
109.	Viktor Arvidsson	BOS	69	25	29	54
110.	Mats Zuccarello	MIN	59	15	39	54
111.	Ryan McLeod	BUF	81	14	40	54
112.	Jake Sanderson	OTT	67	14	40	54
113.	Auston Matthews	TOR	60	27	26	53
114.	Jackson Blake	CAR	81	22	31	53
115.	J.T. Miller	NYR	68	17	36	53
116.	Vincent Trocheck	NYR	67	16	37	53
117.	William Eklund	SJ	78	15	38	53
118.	Adam Fox	NYR	55	9	44	53
119.	Zach Hyman	EDM	58	31	21	52
120.	Aliaksei Protas	WSH	76	25	27	52
121.	Josh Doan	BUF	82	25	27	52
122.	Anthony Cirelli	TB	71	23	29	52
123.	Owen Tippett	PHI	81	28	23	51
124.	Dylan Holloway	STL	59	22	29	51
125.	Jimmy Snuggerud	STL	70	21	30	51
126.	Jack Quinn	BUF	82	20	31	51
127.	Matvei Michkov	PHI	81	20	31	51
128.	Joel Eriksson Ek	MIN	70	19	32	51
129.	Christian Dvorak	PHI	80	18	33	51
130.	Elias Pettersson	VAN	74	15	36	51
131.	Brock Faber	MIN	80	15	36	51
132.	Chris Kreider	ANA	75	22	28	50
133.	Matty Beniers	SEA	82	20	30	50
134.	Brayden Point	TB	63	18	32	50
135.	Nazem Kadri	CGY,COL	77	16	34	50
136.	Shayne Gostisbehere	CAR	55	13	37	50
137.	Quinton Byfield	LA	79	24	25	49
138.	Tyler Toffoli	SJ	79	19	30	49
139.	Valeri Nichushkin	COL	72	17	32	49
140.	Chandler Stephenson	SEA	80	16	33	49
141.	Marcus Johansson	MIN	75	15	34	49
142.	Claude Giroux	OTT	82	14	35	49
143.	Filip Hronek	VAN	82	8	41	49
144.	Rickard Rakell	PIT	60	24	24	48
145.	Brock Boeser	VAN	75	22	26	48
146.	Artturi Lehkonen	COL	70	21	27	48
147.	Pavel Buchnevich	STL	81	20	28	48
148.	Taylor Hall	CAR	80	18	30	48
149.	Elias Lindholm	BOS	69	17	31	48
150.	JJ Peterka	UTH	82	25	22	47
151.	Vladimir Tarasenko	MIN	75	23	24	47
152.	Noah Cates	PHI	82	18	29	47
153.	Rasmus Andersson	CGY,VEG	81	17	30	47
154.	Noah Dobson	MTL	80	12	35	47
155.	Bobby McMann	TOR,SEA	78	29	17	46
156.	Shane Pinto	OTT	72	23	23	46
157.	Collin Graf	SJ	81	21	25	46
158.	Jordan Kyrou	STL	72	18	28	46
159.	Connor McMichael	WSH	78	14	32	46
160.	Jason Zucker	BUF	62	24	21	45
161.	Ryan Leonard	WSH	75	20	25	45
162.	Mason Marchment	SEA,CLB	68	19	26	45
163.	Matt Coronato	CGY	80	18	27	45
164.	Matt Duchene	DAL	57	16	29	45
165.	Timo Meier	NJ	77	24	20	44
166.	Lawson Crouse	UTH	81	24	20	44
167.	Alex Laferriere	LA	82	21	23	44
168.	Logan Stankoven	CAR	81	21	23	44
169.	Anton Lundell	FLA	64	18	26	44
170.	Roope Hintz	DAL	53	15	29	44
171.	Vince Dunn	SEA	81	11	33	44
172.	Logan Cooley	UTH	54	24	19	43
173.	Ryan Hartman	MIN	76	23	20	43
174.	Morgan Frost	CGY	82	22	21	43
175.	Connor Brown	NJ	75	18	25	43
176.	Mikael Backlund	CGY	82	17	26	43
177.	Zach Benson	BUF	65	13	30	43
178.	Andrew Copp	DET	79	9	34	43
179.	Jake DeBrusk	VAN	81	23	19	42
180.	Egor Chinakhov	CLB,PIT	72	21	21	42
181.	Dawson Mercer	NJ	82	20	22	42
182.	Anders Lee	NYI	82	19	23	42
183.	Tommy Novak	PIT	82	16	26	42
184.	Casey Mittelstadt	BOS	71	15	27	42
185.	Bowen Byram	BUF	82	11	31	42
186.	Mavrik Bourque	DAL	82	20	21	41
187.	Mikael Granlund	ANA	58	19	22	41
188.	Simon Holmstrom	NYI	79	19	22	41
189.	Mason McTavish	ANA	75	17	24	41
190.	Frank Nazar	CHI	66	15	26	41
191.	Mattias Samuelsson	BUF	78	13	28	41
192.	Mattias Ekholm	EDM	82	6	35	41
193.	Jared McCann	SEA	52	20	20	40
194.	Kevin Fiala	LA	56	18	22	40
195.	Justin Faulk	STL,DET	78	16	24	40
196.	Kaapo Kakko	SEA	65	13	27	40
197.	Brandt Clarke	LA	82	8	32	40
198.	Sam Malinski	COL	82	8	32	40
199.	Brayden Schenn	STL,NYI	80	18	21	39
200.	Matias Maccelli	TOR	71	14	25	39
201.	Dougie Hamilton	NJ	77	12	27	39
202.	Peyton Krebs	BUF	82	12	27	39
203.	Shea Theodore	VEG	70	10	29	39
204.	Oliver Ekman-Larsson	TOR	78	8	31	39
205.	Joel Farabee	CGY	82	20	18	38
206.	Will Cuylle	NYR	82	20	18	38
207.	Erik Haula	NSH	81	14	24	38
208.	Boone Jenner	CLB	67	13	25	38
209.	Anze Kopitar	LA	67	12	26	38
210.	Oliver Kapanen	MTL	82	22	15	37
211.	Vasily Podkolzin	EDM	82	19	18	37
212.	Matt Savoie	EDM	82	18	19	37
213.	Corey Perry	LA,TB	72	17	20	37
214.	Travis Sanheim	PHI	81	11	26	37
215.	K'Andre Miller	CAR	72	8	29	37
216.	Mike Matheson	MTL	78	7	30	37
217.	Dmitry Orlov	SJ	82	3	34	37
218.	Kiefer Sherwood	VAN,SJ	72	23	13	36
219.	Jack Roslovic	EDM	69	21	15	36
220.	Jordan Staal	CAR	75	20	16	36
221.	Ilya Mikheyev	CHI	77	18	18	36
222.	Jamie Benn	DAL	60	15	21	36
223.	Jake Neighbours	STL	69	15	21	36
224.	Sean Monahan	CLB	78	13	23	36
225.	Sean Couturier	PHI	78	12	24	36
226.	Max Domi	TOR	80	12	24	36
227.	Eeli Tolvanen	SEA	78	12	24	36
228.	Morgan Rielly	TOR	78	11	25	36
229.	Ryan Poehling	ANA	75	11	25	36
230.	Thomas Harley	DAL	70	6	30	36
231.	John Marino	UTH	80	4	32	36
232.	Parker Kelly	COL	82	21	14	35
233.	Blake Coleman	CGY	69	20	15	35
234.	Jean-Gabriel Pageau	NYI	74	17	18	35
235.	Fraser Minten	BOS	82	17	18	35
236.	Ben Kindel	PIT	77	17	18	35
237.	Michael Amadio	OTT	81	15	20	35
238.	Linus Karlsson	VAN	79	15	20	35
239.	Justin Sourdif	WSH	78	15	20	35
240.	Gabriel Landeskog	COL	60	14	21	35
241.	Teuvo Teravainen	CHI	75	14	21	35
242.	Vladislav Gavrikov	NYR	82	14	21	35
243.	Ridly Greig	OTT	77	13	22	35
244.	Brent Burns	COL	82	12	23	35
245.	Marco Rossi	MIN,VAN	50	12	23	35
246.	Jacob Trouba	ANA	81	10	25	35
247.	Ryan Shea	PIT	80	6	29	35
248.	Luke Hughes	NJ	68	6	29	35
249.	Tony DeAngelo	NYI	76	5	30	35
250.	Justin Brazeau	PIT	64	17	17	34
251.	Matthew Tkachuk	FLA	31	13	21	34
252.	Josh Norris	BUF	44	13	21	34
253.	Philip Broberg	STL	81	6	28	34
254.	Kris Letang	PIT	74	3	31	34
255.	Fabian Zetterlund	OTT	82	17	16	33
256.	Alex Killorn	ANA	82	15	18	33
257.	Marat Khusnutdinov	BOS	77	15	18	33
258.	Michael Bunting	NSH,DAL	74	14	19	33
259.	Conor Garland	VAN,CLB	71	12	21	33
260.	Sam Steel	DAL	73	12	21	33
261.	Andre Burakovsky	CHI	75	11	22	33
262.	Eetu Luostarinen	FLA	73	11	22	33
263.	Alexander Nikishin	CAR	81	11	22	33
264.	Gage Goncalves	TB	74	11	22	33
265.	Cole Sillinger	CLB	81	8	25	33
266.	A.J. Greer	FLA	78	17	15	32
267.	Dmitri Voronkov	CLB	63	17	15	32
268.	Nicholas Robertson	TOR	78	16	16	32
269.	Trevor Moore	LA	69	13	19	32
270.	Oliver Bjorkstrand	TB	80	12	20	32
271.	Cole Perfetti	WPG	68	12	20	32
272.	Mackie Samoskevich	FLA	77	12	20	32
273.	Brandon Montour	SEA	64	11	21	32
274.	Damon Severson	CLB	71	8	24	32
275.	Jamie Drysdale	PHI	78	8	24	32
276.	Seth Jones	FLA	52	7	25	32
277.	Esa Lindell	DAL	82	6	26	32
278.	Emil Heineman	NYI	82	22	9	31
279.	Michael Carcone	UTH	79	16	15	31
280.	James van Riemsdyk	DET	72	15	16	31
281.	Evander Kane	VAN	71	13	18	31
282.	Victor Olofsson	COL,CGY	78	13	18	31
283.	Arseny Gritsyuk	NJ	66	13	18	31
284.	Denton Mateychuk	CLB	75	13	18	31
285.	Jonathan Marchessault	NSH	62	12	19	31
286.	Evan Rodrigues	FLA	69	11	20	31
287.	Ivan Provorov	CLB	82	9	22	31
288.	Sean Walker	CAR	81	9	22	31
289.	Thomas Chabot	OTT	57	7	24	31
290.	Jordan Spence	OTT	73	7	24	31
291.	Josh Manson	COL	79	5	26	31
292.	Matthew Wood	NSH	71	17	13	30
293.	Ryan Donato	CHI	82	15	15	30
294.	Bobby Brink	PHI,MIN	68	15	15	30
295.	Connor Dewar	PIT	78	14	16	30
296.	Justin Hryckowian	DAL	81	14	16	30
297.	Calum Ritchie	NYI	65	13	17	30
298.	Emmitt Finnie	DET	82	13	17	30
299.	Zach Bolduc	MTL	78	12	18	30
300.	Artem Zub	OTT	81	5	25	30

POINTS PER GAME

	PLAYER	TEAM	GP	G	A	P	P/GP
1.	Nikita Kucherov	TB	76	44	86	130	1.71
2.	Connor McDavid	EDM	82	48	90	138	1.68
3.	Nathan MacKinnon	COL	80	53	74	127	1.59
4.	Leon Draisaitl	EDM	65	35	62	97	1.49
5.	Macklin Celebrini	SJ	82	45	70	115	1.40
6.	David Pastrnak	BOS	77	29	71	100	1.30
7.	Martin Necas	COL	78	38	62	100	1.28
8.	Jack Hughes	NJ	61	27	50	77	1.26
9.	Mark Scheifele	WPG	82	36	67	103	1.26
10.	Nick Suzuki	MTL	82	29	72	101	1.23
11.	Mark Stone	VEG	60	28	45	73	1.22
12.	Jack Eichel	VEG	74	27	63	90	1.22
13.	William Nylander	TOR	65	30	49	79	1.22
14.	Mikko Rantanen	DAL	64	22	55	77	1.20
15.	Jason Robertson	DAL	82	45	51	96	1.17
16.	Evan Bouchard	EDM	82	21	74	95	1.16
17.	Kirill Kaprizov	MIN	78	45	44	89	1.14
18.	Kyle Connor	WPG	82	39	53	92	1.12
19.	Matt Boldy	MIN	76	42	43	85	1.12
20.	Evgeni Malkin	PIT	56	19	42	61	1.09
21.	Sidney Crosby	PIT	68	29	45	74	1.09
22.	Connor Bedard	CHI	69	30	45	75	1.09
23.	Jake Guentzel	TB	81	38	50	88	1.09
24.	Cole Caufield	MTL	81	51	37	88	1.09
25.	Zach Werenski	CLB	75	22	59	81	1.08
26.	Artemi Panarin	NYR,LA	78	28	56	84	1.08
27.	Clayton Keller	UTH	82	26	62	88	1.07
28.	Cale Makar	COL	75	20	59	79	1.05
29.	Wyatt Johnston	DAL	82	45	41	86	1.05
30.	Brandon Hagel	TB	71	36	38	74	1.04
31.	Brad Marchand	FLA	52	27	27	54	1.04
32.	Tim Stutzle	OTT	80	34	49	83	1.04
33.	Alex DeBrincat	DET	82	41	44	85	1.04
34.	Quinn Hughes	VAN,MIN	74	7	69	76	1.03
35.	Sebastian Aho	CAR	79	27	53	80	1.01
36.	Tage Thompson	BUF	81	40	41	81	1.00
37.	Robert Thomas	STL	64	25	39	64	1.00
38.	Mitch Marner	VEG	81	24	56	80	0.99
39.	Brady Tkachuk	OTT	60	22	37	59	0.98
40.	Adam Fox	NYR	55	9	44	53	0.96
41.	Mika Zibanejad	NYR	81	34	44	78	0.96
42.	Rasmus Dahlin	BUF	77	19	55	74	0.96
43.	Darren Raddysh	TB	73	22	48	70	0.96
44.	Leo Carlsson	ANA	70	29	38	67	0.96
45.	Sam Reinhart	FLA	64	29	32	61	0.95
46.	Lane Hutson	MTL	82	12	66	78	0.95
47.	Lucas Raymond	DET	80	25	51	76	0.95
48.	Troy Terry	ANA	61	19	38	57	0.93
49.	Seth Jarvis	CAR	71	32	34	66	0.93
50.	Dylan Guenther	UTH	79	40	33	73	0.92
51.	Mats Zuccarello	MIN	59	15	39	54	0.92
52.	Filip Forsberg	NSH	82	40	35	75	0.91
53.	Ryan O'Reilly	NSH	81	25	49	74	0.91
54.	Shayne Gostisbehere	CAR	55	13	37	50	0.91
55.	Cutter Gauthier	ANA	76	41	28	69	0.91
56.	Dylan Larkin	DET	74	34	33	67	0.91
57.	Bryan Rust	PIT	72	29	36	65	0.9
58.	Nick Schmaltz	UTH	82	33	41	74	0.9
59.	Adrian Kempe	LA	81	36	37	73	0.9
60.	Drake Batherson	OTT	79	33	38	71	0.9
61.	Zach Hyman	EDM	58	31	21	52	0.9
62.	Juraj Slafkovsky	MTL	82	30	43	73	0.89
63.	Mat Barzal	NYI	81	19	53	72	0.89
64.	Andrei Svechnikov	CAR	79	31	39	70	0.89
65.	Charlie McAvoy	BOS	69	11	50	61	0.88
66.	Auston Matthews	TOR	60	27	26	53	0.88
67.	Travis Konecny	PHI	77	27	41	68	0.88
68.	Kirill Marchenko	CLB	76	27	40	67	0.88
69.	Erik Karlsson	PIT	75	15	51	66	0.88
70.	John Tavares	TOR	82	31	40	71	0.87
71.	Nikolaj Ehlers	CAR	82	26	45	71	0.87
72.	Jesper Bratt	NJ	82	22	49	71	0.87
73.	Dylan Holloway	STL	59	22	29	51	0.86
74.	Tom Wilson	WSH	72	30	32	62	0.86
75.	Will Smith	SJ	69	24	35	59	0.86
76.	Patrick Kane	DET	67	16	41	57	0.85
77.	John Carlson	WSH,ANA	71	14	46	60	0.85
78.	Gabriel Vilardi	WPG	82	30	39	69	0.84
79.	Morgan Geekie	BOS	81	39	29	68	0.84
80.	Bo Horvat	NYI	68	31	26	57	0.84
81.	Alex Tuch	BUF	79	33	33	66	0.84
82.	Matthew Knies	TOR	79	23	43	66	0.84
83.	Pavel Zacha	BOS	78	30	35	65	0.83
84.	Roope Hintz	DAL	53	15	29	44	0.83
85.	Trevor Zegras	PHI	81	26	41	67	0.83
86.	Miro Heiskanen	DAL	77	9	54	63	0.82
87.	Roman Josi	NSH	68	13	42	55	0.81
88.	Jake Sanderson	OTT	67	14	40	54	0.81
89.	Steven Stamkos	NSH	82	42	24	66	0.8
90.	Nico Hischier	NJ	82	28	38	66	0.8
91.	Brock Nelson	COL	81	33	32	65	0.8
92.	Rickard Rakell	PIT	60	24	24	48	0.8
93.	Logan Cooley	UTH	54	24	19	43	0.8
94.	Brayden Point	TB	63	18	32	50	0.79
95.	Vincent Trocheck	NYR	67	16	37	53	0.79
96.	Anthony Mantha	PIT	81	33	31	64	0.79
97.	Matt Duchene	DAL	57	16	29	45	0.79
98.	Viktor Arvidsson	BOS	69	25	29	54	0.78
99.	Alex Ovechkin	WSH	82	32	32	64	0.78
100.	Pavel Dorofeyev	VEG	82	37	27	64	0.78

GOALS

	PLAYER	TEAM	GP	G
1.	Nathan MacKinnon	COL	80	53
2.	Cole Caufield	MTL	81	51
3.	Connor McDavid	EDM	82	48
4.	Kirill Kaprizov	MIN	78	45
5.	Jason Robertson	DAL	82	45
6.	Wyatt Johnston	DAL	82	45
7.	Macklin Celebrini	SJ	82	45
8.	Nikita Kucherov	TB	76	44
9.	Steven Stamkos	NSH	82	42
10.	Matt Boldy	MIN	76	42
11.	Alex DeBrincat	DET	82	41
12.	Cutter Gauthier	ANA	76	41
13.	Filip Forsberg	NSH	82	40
14.	Tage Thompson	BUF	81	40
15.	Dylan Guenther	UTH	79	40
16.	Kyle Connor	WPG	82	39
17.	Morgan Geekie	BOS	81	39
18.	Jake Guentzel	TB	81	38
19.	Martin Necas	COL	78	38
20.	Pavel Dorofeyev	VEG	82	37
21.	Mark Scheifele	WPG	82	36
22.	Adrian Kempe	LA	81	36
23.	Brandon Hagel	TB	71	36
24.	Leon Draisaitl	EDM	65	35
25.	Mika Zibanejad	NYR	81	34
26.	Dylan Larkin	DET	74	34
27.	Tim Stutzle	OTT	80	34
28.	Brock Nelson	COL	81	33
29.	Anthony Mantha	PIT	81	33
30.	Alex Tuch	BUF	79	33
31.	Nick Schmaltz	UTH	82	33
32.	Drake Batherson	OTT	79	33
33.	Alex Ovechkin	WSH	82	32
34.	Tyler Bertuzzi	CHI	79	32
35.	Seth Jarvis	CAR	71	32
36.	John Tavares	TOR	82	31
37.	Zach Hyman	EDM	58	31
38.	Bo Horvat	NYI	68	31
39.	Andrei Svechnikov	CAR	79	31
40.	Tom Wilson	WSH	72	30
41.	William Nylander	TOR	65	30
42.	Pavel Zacha	BOS	78	30
43.	Gabriel Vilardi	WPG	82	30
44.	Juraj Slafkovsky	MTL	82	30
45.	Connor Bedard	CHI	69	30
46.	Sidney Crosby	PIT	68	29
47.	Bryan Rust	PIT	72	29
48.	Sam Reinhart	FLA	64	29
49.	David Pastrnak	BOS	77	29
50.	Nick Suzuki	MTL	82	29

PP POINTS

	PLAYER	TEAM	GP	PPG	PPP
1.	Connor McDavid	EDM	82	13	54
2.	Nick Suzuki	MTL	82	11	43
3.	Leon Draisaitl	EDM	65	16	42
4.	Wyatt Johnston	DAL	82	27	42
5.	Jason Robertson	DAL	82	15	41
6.	Nikita Kucherov	TB	76	8	37
7.	Mika Zibanejad	NYR	81	16	35
8.	Mikko Rantanen	DAL	64	6	34
9.	Quinn Hughes	VAN,MIN	74	2	34
10.	David Pastrnak	BOS	77	10	33
11.	Evan Bouchard	EDM	82	7	33
12.	Macklin Celebrini	SJ	82	8	33
13.	Kirill Kaprizov	MIN	78	19	32
14.	Jake Guentzel	TB	81	8	30
15.	Nathan MacKinnon	COL	80	11	30
16.	Drake Batherson	OTT	79	13	30
17.	Matt Boldy	MIN	76	11	30
18.	Pavel Dorofeyev	VEG	82	20	30
19.	Ryan Nugent-Hopkins	EDM	72	11	29
20.	Nikolaj Ehlers	CAR	82	10	29
21.	Cale Makar	COL	75	4	29
22.	Andrei Svechnikov	CAR	79	12	29
23.	Dylan Cozens	OTT	82	13	29
24.	Cole Caufield	MTL	81	11	29
25.	Tim Stutzle	OTT	80	9	29
26.	Jack Eichel	VEG	74	1	28
27.	Miro Heiskanen	DAL	77	2	28
28.	Moritz Seider	DET	82	3	28
29.	Juraj Slafkovsky	MTL	82	15	28
30.	Mark Stone	VEG	60	9	27
31.	Sebastian Aho	CAR	79	7	27
32.	Clayton Keller	UTH	82	3	27
33.	Lucas Raymond	DET	80	7	27
34.	Steven Stamkos	NSH	82	14	26
35.	Erik Karlsson	PIT	75	4	26
36.	Filip Forsberg	NSH	82	11	26
37.	Darren Raddysh	TB	73	10	26
38.	Mikhail Sergachev	UTH	78	5	26
39.	Tomas Hertl	VEG	82	13	25
40.	Sam Reinhart	FLA	64	11	25
41.	Roman Josi	NSH	68	4	24
42.	Bryan Rust	PIT	72	8	24
43.	Dylan Larkin	DET	74	14	24
44.	Mitch Marner	VEG	81	5	24
45.	Jake DeBrusk	VAN	81	19	24
46.	Adam Fox	NYR	55	5	24
47.	Tage Thompson	BUF	81	6	24
48.	Morgan Geekie	BOS	81	12	24
49.	Gabriel Vilardi	WPG	82	13	24
50.	Martin Necas	COL	78	9	24

DEFENSEMAN PTS

	PLAYER	TEAM	GP	G	A	P
1.	Evan Bouchard	EDM	82	21	74	95
2.	Zach Werenski	CLB	75	22	59	81
3.	Cale Makar	COL	75	20	59	79
4.	Lane Hutson	MTL	82	12	66	78
5.	Quinn Hughes	VAN,MIN	74	7	69	76
6.	Rasmus Dahlin	BUF	77	19	55	74
7.	Darren Raddysh	TB	73	22	48	70
8.	Erik Karlsson	PIT	75	15	51	66
9.	Miro Heiskanen	DAL	77	9	54	63
10.	Charlie McAvoy	BOS	69	11	50	61
11.	Jakob Chychrun	WSH	80	26	34	60
12.	John Carlson	WSH,ANA	71	14	46	60
13.	Moritz Seider	DET	82	10	50	60
14.	Matthew Schaefer	NYI	82	23	36	59
15.	Mikhail Sergachev	UTH	78	10	49	59
16.	Jackson LaCombe	ANA	82	10	48	58
17.	Josh Morrissey	WPG	77	14	41	55
18.	Roman Josi	NSH	68	13	42	55
19.	Jake Sanderson	OTT	67	14	40	54
20.	Adam Fox	NYR	55	9	44	53
21.	Brock Faber	MIN	80	15	36	51
22.	Shayne Gostisbehere	CAR	55	13	37	50
23.	Filip Hronek	VAN	82	8	41	49
24.	Rasmus Andersson	CGY,VEG	81	17	30	47
25.	Noah Dobson	MTL	80	12	35	47
26.	Vince Dunn	SEA	81	11	33	44
27.	Bowen Byram	BUF	82	11	31	42
28.	Mattias Samuelsson	BUF	78	13	28	41
29.	Mattias Ekholm	EDM	82	6	35	41
30.	Justin Faulk	STL,DET	78	16	24	40
31.	Brandt Clarke	LA	82	8	32	40
32.	Sam Malinski	COL	82	8	32	40
33.	Dougie Hamilton	NJ	77	12	27	39
34.	Shea Theodore	VEG	70	10	29	39
35.	Oliver Ekman-Larsson	TOR	78	8	31	39
36.	Travis Sanheim	PHI	81	11	26	37
37.	K'Andre Miller	CAR	72	8	29	37
38.	Mike Matheson	MTL	78	7	30	37
39.	Dmitry Orlov	SJ	82	3	34	37
40.	Morgan Rielly	TOR	78	11	25	36
41.	Thomas Harley	DAL	70	6	30	36
42.	John Marino	UTH	80	4	32	36
43.	Vladislav Gavrikov	NYR	82	14	21	35
44.	Brent Burns	COL	82	12	23	35
45.	Jacob Trouba	ANA	81	10	25	35
46.	Ryan Shea	PIT	80	6	29	35
47.	Luke Hughes	NJ	68	6	29	35
48.	Tony DeAngelo	NYI	76	5	30	35
49.	Philip Broberg	STL	81	6	28	34
50.	Kris Letang	PIT	74	3	31	34

PIM

	PLAYER	TEAM	GP	PIM
1.	Nikita Zadorov	BOS	81	152
2.	Mark Kastelic	BOS	82	140
3.	Logan Stanley	WPG,BUF	76	128
4.	Tom Wilson	WSH	72	117
5.	Arber Xhekaj	MTL	65	116
6.	A.J. Greer	FLA	78	113
7.	Charle-Edouard D'Astous	TB	70	112
8.	Adam Klapka	CGY	79	112
9.	Curtis Douglas	TB,VAN	43	108
10.	Ross Johnston	ANA	62	107
11.	Darnell Nurse	EDM	82	104
12.	Mathieu Olivier	CLB	61	101
13.	Max Domi	TOR	80	95
14.	Michael McCarron	NSH,MIN	79	93
15.	Mikko Rantanen	DAL	64	93
16.	Evander Kane	VAN	71	92
17.	Nick Cousins	OTT	81	92
18.	Josh Manson	COL	79	91
19.	Josh Anderson	MTL	72	90
20.	Brenden Dillon	NJ	82	89
21.	Scott Sabourin	TB	26	89
22.	Jeremy Lauzon	VEG	68	89
23.	MacKenzie Weegar	CGY,UTH	79	88
24.	Jack McBain	UTH	75	84
25.	Scott Mayfield	NYI	80	83
26.	Ridly Greig	OTT	77	83
27.	Sam Bennett	FLA	76	82
28.	Corey Perry	LA,TB	72	81
29.	Tyler Tucker	STL	69	81
30.	Jeffrey Viel	BOS,ANA	45	79
31.	Brandon Duhaime	WSH	82	78
32.	Peyton Krebs	BUF	82	78
33.	Jake Middleton	MIN	75	76
34.	Rasmus Dahlin	BUF	77	76
35.	Ben Chiarot	DET	82	75
36.	Simon Edvinsson	DET	72	75
37.	Erik Cernak	TB	61	74
38.	Nic Dowd	WSH,VEG	75	73
39.	Barclay Goodrow	SJ	82	73
40.	David Pastrnak	BOS	77	72
41.	Darren Raddysh	TB	73	72
42.	Connor Murphy	CHI,EDM	80	71
43.	Rasmus Andersson	CGY,VEG	81	71
44.	Brady Tkachuk	OTT	60	71
45.	Matvei Michkov	PHI	81	71
46.	Oliver Ekman-Larsson	TOR	78	70
47.	J.J. Moser	TB	79	69
48.	Brayden Schenn	STL,NYI	80	68
49.	Vincent Desharnais	SJ	53	68
50.	Donovan Sebrango	OTT,FLA	42	68

WINS

	PLAYER	TEAM	GP	W	L	OT
1.	Andrei Vasilevskiy	TB	58	39	15	4
2.	Karel Vejmelka	UTH	64	38	20	3
3.	Jake Oettinger	DAL	54	35	12	6
4.	Scott Wedgewood	COL	45	31	6	6
5.	Logan Thompson	WSH	58	31	21	6
6.	Jeremy Swayman	BOS	55	31	18	4
7.	Brandon Bussi	CAR	39	31	6	2
8.	Lukas Dostal	ANA	56	30	20	4
9.	Ilya Sorokin	NYI	55	29	24	2
10.	Dan Vladar	PHI	52	29	14	7
11.	John Gibson	DET	57	29	22	4
12.	Jakub Dobes	MTL	43	29	10	4
13.	Filip Gustavsson	MIN	50	28	15	6
14.	Juuse Saros	NSH	59	28	22	8
15.	Linus Ullmark	OTT	49	28	12	8
16.	Sergei Bobrovsky	FLA	52	27	23	1
17.	Jet Greaves	CLB	55	26	19	9
18.	Igor Shesterkin	NYR	51	25	19	6
19.	Joel Hofer	STL	46	24	13	5
20.	Mackenzie Blackwood	COL	39	23	10	2
21.	Dustin Wolf	CGY	57	23	29	3
22.	Connor Hellebuyck	WPG	57	23	23	11
23.	Stuart Skinner	EDM,PIT	50	23	17	9
24.	Jacob Markstrom	NJ	44	23	19	1
25.	Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen	BUF	35	22	9	3
26.	Yaroslav Askarov	SJ	47	21	20	4
27.	Alex Lyon	BUF	36	20	10	4
28.	Joey Daccord	SEA	47	20	20	6
29.	Spencer Knight	CHI	55	19	25	11
30.	Darcy Kuemper	LA	50	19	14	15
31.	Arturs Silovs	PIT	39	19	12	8
32.	Jesper Wallstedt	MIN	35	18	9	6
33.	Alex Nedeljkovic	SJ	40	18	14	4
34.	Tristan Jarry	PIT,EDM	33	18	9	3
35.	Jake Allen	NJ	37	17	17	2
36.	Anton Forsberg	LA	36	16	12	5
37.	Connor Ingram	EDM	32	16	10	3
38.	Akira Schmid	VEG	34	16	10	6
39.	Frederik Andersen	CAR	35	16	14	5
40.	Casey DeSmith	DAL	30	15	8	6
41.	Joseph Woll	TOR	39	15	16	7
42.	David Rittich	NYI	30	14	10	3
43.	Joonas Korpisalo	BOS	31	14	9	6
44.	Elvis Merzlikins	CLB	30	14	11	3
45.	Samuel Ersson	PHI	33	14	11	5
46.	Philipp Grubauer	SEA	32	13	12	4
47.	Daniil Tarasov	FLA	33	13	15	3
48.	Jordan Binnington	STL	41	13	20	7
49.	Eric Comrie	WPG	25	12	11	1
50.	Cam Talbot	DET	34	12	9	6

SHUTOUTS

	PLAYER	TEAM	GP	SO
1.	Ilya Sorokin	NYI	55	7
2.	Joel Hofer	STL	46	6
3.	Sergei Bobrovsky	FLA	52	4
4.	Scott Wedgewood	COL	45	4
5.	John Gibson	DET	57	4
6.	Filip Gustavsson	MIN	50	4
7.	Jake Oettinger	DAL	54	4
8.	Logan Thompson	WSH	58	4
9.	Jesper Wallstedt	MIN	35	4
10.	Darcy Kuemper	LA	50	3
11.	Anton Forsberg	LA	36	3
12.	Linus Ullmark	OTT	49	3
13.	Mackenzie Blackwood	COL	39	3
14.	Alex Lyon	BUF	36	3
15.	Spencer Knight	CHI	55	3
16.	Jonathan Quick	NYR	25	2
17.	Andrei Vasilevskiy	TB	58	2
18.	Tristan Jarry	PIT,EDM	33	2
19.	Karel Vejmelka	UTH	64	2
20.	Joey Daccord	SEA	47	2
21.	Connor Ingram	EDM	32	2
22.	Joseph Woll	TOR	39	2
23.	David Rittich	NYI	30	2
24.	Stuart Skinner	EDM,PIT	50	2
25.	Jeremy Swayman	BOS	55	2
26.	Akira Schmid	VEG	34	2
27.	Arturs Silovs	PIT	39	2
28.	Dustin Wolf	CGY	57	2
29.	Jet Greaves	CLB	55	2
30.	Brandon Bussi	CAR	39	2
31.	James Reimer	OTT	14	1
32.	Jacob Markstrom	NJ	44	1
33.	Jake Allen	NJ	37	1
34.	Jordan Binnington	STL	41	1
35.	Joonas Korpisalo	BOS	31	1
36.	Thatcher Demko	VAN	20	1
37.	Vitek Vanecek	UTH	22	1
38.	Elvis Merzlikins	CLB	30	1
39.	Igor Shesterkin	NYR	51	1
40.	Adin Hill	VEG	27	1
41.	Casey DeSmith	DAL	30	1
42.	Charlie Lindgren	WSH	21	1
43.	Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen	BUF	35	1
44.	Justus Annunen	NSH	28	1
45.	Trent Miner	COL	4	1
46.	Colten Ellis	BUF	16	1
47.	Pyotr Kochetkov	CAR	9	1
48.	Drew Commesso	CHI	3	1
49.	Arvid Soderblom	CHI	26	1
50.	Sergei Murashov	PIT	5	1

BOB FRID-IMAGN IMAGES

FIRST ROUND DRAFT PICKS

The 2026 draft was held June 26 and 27 at the KeyBank Center in Buffalo. Listed below are each team's picks. Information includes round/overall, name, position, 2025-26 team(s) and league.

NO.	TEAM	PLAYER	POS.	HT./WT.	2025-26 TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
1.	Tor	Gavin McKenna	LW	5-11/170	Penn State (Big Ten)	35	15	36	51	36
2.	SJ	Ivar Stenberg	LW	5-11/183	Frolunda (SHL)	43	11	22	33	6
3.	Van	Caleb Malhotra	C	6-2/182	Brantford (OHL)	67	29	55	84	51
4.	Buf	Daxon Rudolph	D	6-3/206	Prince Albert (WHL)	68	28	50	78	75
5.	NYR	Alberts Smits	D	6-3/205	Jukurit (Liiga)	38	6	7	13	20
6.	Cgy	Carson Carels	D	6-2/198	Prince George (WHL)	58	20	53	73	66
7.	Sea	Chase Reid	D	6-3/195	Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)	45	18	30	48	30
8.	Wpg	Viggo Bjorck	C	5-9/177	Djurgarden (SHL)	42	6	9	15	12
9.	SJ	Keaton Verhoeff	D	6-4/208	North Dakota (NCHC)	36	6	14	20	29
10.	Nsh	Wyatt Cullen	LW	6-1/184	USA U18 (NTDP)	40	16	29	45	43
11.	StL	Tynan Lawrence	C	6-1/185	Boston University (HE)	18	2	5	7	2
12.	NJ	Alexander Command	C	6-1/183	Orebro Jr. (Swe.)	30	17	27	44	61
13.	NYI	Malte Gustafsson	D	6-4/200	HV71 (SHL)	27	0	3	3	4
14.	Clb	Oscar Hemming	LW	6-4/193	Boston College (HE)	19	1	7	8	18
15.	Ana	Nikita Klepov	RW	6-0/180	Saginaw (OHL)	67	37	60	97	43
16.	StL	Maddox Dagenais	C	6-4/196	Quebec (QMJHL)	62	30	32	62	31
17.	Uth	Ethan Belchetz	LW	6-5/228	Windsor (OHL)	57	34	25	59	45
18.	Wsh	Oliver Suvanto	C	6-3/207	Tappara (Liiga)	48	2	9	11	16
19.	LA	Elton Hermansson	RW	6-1/181	MoDo (Swe.2)	38	11	10	21	22
20.	Buf	Ilia Morozov	C	6-3/200	Miami-Ohio (NCHC)	36	8	12	20	27
21.	SJ	Ryan Lin	D	5-11/178	Vancouver (WHL)	53	14	43	57	35
22.	Pit	Liam Ruck	RW	6-0/177	Medicine Hat (WHL)	68	45	59	104	36
23.	Det	JP Hurlbert	LW	6-0/183	Kamloops (WHL)	68	42	55	97	45
24.	Van	Adam Novotny	LW	6-1/205	Peterborough (OHL)	58	34	31	65	22
25.	Ott	Jonas Lagerberg Hoen	RW	6-2/185	Leksand Jr. (Swe.)	9	9	7	16	33
26.	Mtl	Gleb Pugachyov	RW	6-3/198	Nizhny Novgorod Jr. (Rus.)	33	10	14	24	36
27.	Phi	Maksim Sokolovskii	D	6-7/238	London (OHL)	44	2	6	8	49
28.	Ana	Marcus Nordmark	LW	6-2/180	Djurgarden Jr. (Swe.)	25	14	24	38	48
29.	Veg	Juho Piiparinen	D	6-1/201	Tappara (Liiga)	29	0	3	3	8
30.	Cgy	Jack Hextall	C	6-1/188	Youngstown (USHL)	59	20	38	58	28
31.	Nsh	Thomas Bleyl	D	6-0/165	Moncton (QMJHL)	63	13	68	81	33
32.	Ott	Jaxon Cover	RW	6-2/183	London (OHL)	67	20	32	52	48

ANAHEIM DUCKS
1/15. Nikita Klepov, RW, Saginaw (OHL)
1/28. Marcus Nordmark, LW, Djurgarden Jr. (Swe.)
2/45. Jayden Kurtz, D, Rogers (USHS)
2/50. Mathis Preston, RW, Spokane/Vancouver (WHL)
3/82. Rian Chudzinski, RW, Moncton (QMJHL)
5/146. Eric Frossard, D, Guelph (OHL)
6/178. Gleb Peshkov, G, Primorsky Krai Jr. (Rus.)
6/192. Noah Kosick, C, Swift Current/Seattle (WHL)
7/210. James Rieber, D, Waterloo (USHL)

BOSTON BRUINS
2/56. Yuri Ivanov, G, Spartak Moscow/Spartak MAH Jr. (Rus.)
3/88. Nils Bartholdsson, RW, Rogle Jr. (Swe.)
4/104. Matvei Kotkov, RW, Loko-76/Loko Jr. (Rus.)
4/122. Oscar Olsson, LW, Orebro Jr. (Swe.)
5/157. Jacob Vandeven, D, Komoka (GOJHL)
6/170. Roberto Henriquez, G, Green Bay (USHL)
7/216. Cullen McCrate, D, Fargo (USHL)

BUFFALO SABRES
1/4. Daxon Rudolph, D, Prince Albert (WHL)
1/20. Ilia Morozov, C, Miami-Ohio (NCHC)
4/124. Olivers Murnieks, C, Saint John (QMJHL)
5/156. Doman Szongoth, C, KooKoo Jr. (Fin.)
6/188. Dylan Dumont, RW, Drummondville (QMJHL)

CALGARY FLAMES
1/6. Carson Carels, D, Prince George (WHL)
1/30. Jack Hextall, C, Youngstown (USHL)
2/36. Chase Harrington, LW, Spokane (WHL)
2/42. Tobias Trejbal, G, Youngstown (USHL)
2/55. Alan Shaikhlislamov, RW, Ufa Jr. (Rus.)
3/65. Joe Iginla, RW, Edmonton/Vancouver (WHL)
4/100. Egor Barabanov, C, Saginaw (OHL)
5/132. Simon Katolicky, LW, Tappara Jr. (Fin.)
6/164. Bode Laylin, D, Tri-City (USHL)

CAROLINA HURRICANES
2/51. William Hakansson, D, Lulea (SHL)
2/61. Wiggo Sorensson, C, Boro/Vetlanda (Swe.4)
3/68. Zachary Lansard, RW, Regina (WHL)
4/105. Michael Berchild, LW, USA U18 (NTDP)
4/125. Ryder Fetterolf, G, Ottawa (OHL)
6/165. Zachary Jovanovski, G, Guelph (OHL)

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS
2/34. Xavier Villeneuve, D, Blainville-Boisbriand (QMJHL)
2/35. Ryan Roobroeck, LW, Niagara (OHL)
3/66. Samu Alalauri, D, Pelicans Jr. (Fin.)
7/194. Alexander Ivanov, D, Kazan (Rus.2)
7/200. William Sorbrand, C, Timra Jr. (Swe.)

COLORADO AVALANCHE
2/43. Egor Shilov, C, Victoriaville (QMJHL)
3/74. Beckett Hamilton, C, Red Deer (WHL)
4/126. Tobias Tvrznik, G, Wenatchee (WHL)
4/128. Axel Elofsson, D, Orebro Jr. (Swe.)
5/140. Cole Tuminaro, D, Chicago (USHL)
5/152. Theodore Lechner, D, Academy of Holy Angels (USHS)
7/195. Shawn Carrier, LW, Halifax (QMJHL)
7/214. Ondrej Ruml, D, Ottawa (OHL)
7/215. Alexandre Raymond, G, Rouyn-Noranda (QMJHL)

COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS
1/14. Oscar Hemming, LW, Boston College (HE)
3/94. Alessandro Di Iorio, C, Sarnia (OHL)
4/121. Evan Jardine, LW, Youngstown (USHL)
5/142. Parker Snell, G, Edmonton (WHL)
6/182. Anttoni Uronen, C, HIFK (Liiga)
6/185. Jonas Woo, D, Medicine Hat (WHL)
7/206. Filip Novak, LW, Prague Jr. (Cze.)

DALLAS STARS
2/59. Jakub Vanecek, D, Tri-City (WHL)
5/155. Ryan Brown, LW, Sarnia/London (OHL)
6/187. Anton-Emil Wilde Larsen, G, Frederikshavn (Den.)
7/197. Jasper Kuhta, C, Ottawa (OHL)
7/219. Mikhail Cherepanov, D, New Hampshire (NAHL)

DETROIT RED WINGS
1/23. JP Hurlbert, LW, Kamloops (WHL)
2/47. Victor Plante, LW, USA U18 (NTDP)
3/79. Michal Orsulak, G, Prince Albert (WHL)
4/108. Adam Levac, C, Peterborough (OHL)
5/143. Beckham Edwards, C, Sarnia (OHL)
6/175. Luka Arkko, LW, Pelicans Jr. (Fin.)
7/196. Myles Brosnan, D, Dexter Southfield (USHS)

EDMONTON OILERS
2/58. Rudolfs Berzkalns, C, Muskegon (USHL)
3/84. Malcom Gastrin, LW, MoDo Jr. (Swe.)
5/133. Andrew Robinson, D, Windsor (OHL)
6/180. Caden Harvey, C, Windsor (OHL)
7/212. Ryan Cameron, G, Cedar Rapids (USHL)

FLORIDA PANTHERS
2/40. Simas Ignatavicius, RW, Geneva (Sui.)
2/48. Ryder Cali, C, North Bay (OHL)
4/98. Jonas Kemps, D, Chicago (USHL)
6/168. Vilho Vanhatalo, RW, Tappara Jr. (Fin.)
6/181. Cole Zurawski, RW, Owen Sound (OHL)
7/217. Louis-Antoine Denault, G, Quebec/Newfoundland (QMJHL)

LOS ANGELES KINGS
1/19. Elton Hermansson, RW, MoDo (Swe.2)
2/46. Liam Lefebvre, C, Rimouski/Chicoutimi (QMJHL)
2/49. Adam Goljer, D, Trencin (Svk.)
3/80. Blake Zielinski, C, Des Moines (USHL)
3/89. Yegor Rybkin, G, Nizhny Novgorod Jr. (Rus.)
4/103. Thomas Vandenberg, C, Ottawa (OHL)
5/145. Vertti Svensk, D, SaiPa Jr. (Fin.)
5/153. Giorgos Pantelas, D, Brandon (WHL)
6/177. Alex Kostov, RW, Flint (OHL)
7/209. Tobias Krestan, RW, HV71 Jr. (Swe.)
7/223. Lucas Ambrosio, D, Erie (OHL)

MINNESOTA WILD
3/83. Adam Andersson, C, Leksand Jr. (Swe.)
4/112. Kayden Lemire, RW, Prince George (WHL)
5/137. Filip Ruzicka, G, Brandon (WHL)

MONTREAL CANADIENS
1/26. Gleb Pugachyov, RW, Nizhny Novgorod Jr. (Rus.)
2/57. Timofei Runtso, D, Victoria (WHL)
3/93. Cooper Cleaves, D, Dartmouth (ECAC)
4/117. Brayden Klimpke, D, Saskatoon (WHL)
6/189. Parker Trottier, LW, USA U18 (NTDP)
6/190. Wesley Royston, RW, Erie/Owen Sound (OHL)
7/221. Jean-Samuel Daigneault, D, Muskegon (USHL)
7/224. Tyler Deakos, RW, Waterloo (USHL)

NASHVILLE PREDATORS
1/10. Wyatt Cullen, LW, USA U18 (NTDP)
1/31. Thomas Bleyl, D, Moncton (QMJHL)
3/70. Dmitri Borichev, G, Loko-76 Yaroslavl Jr. (Rus.)
4/106. Jakub Floris, D, Lukko Jr. (Fin.)
4/118. Justin Graf, LW, Cedar Rapids (USHL)
5/138. Philip Hemmyr, LW, Bjorkloven (Swe.2)
6/179. Benjamin Cossette Ayotte, D, Val-d'Or (QMJHL)
7/202. Charlie Puglisi, C, Winchendon School (USHS)

NEW JERSEY DEVILS
1/12. Alexander Command, C, Orebro Jr. (Swe.)
2/37. Matias Vanhanen, LW, Everett (WHL)
2/44. Nikita Shcherbakov, D, Neftekamsk (Rus.2)
4/119. Lavr Gashilov, C, Yekaterinburg Jr. (Rus.)
5/149. Daniil Rusakovich, G, Bobruysk Jr. (Rus.)
6/172. Luke Wilfley, C, Portland (WHL)
7/222. Quinn McKenzie, C, Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)

NEW YORK ISLANDERS
1/13. Malte Gustafsson, D, HV71 (SHL)
4/109. Lincoln Kuehne, D, Arizona State (NCHC)
5/141. Vladimir Dravecky, D, Brantford (OHL)
6/173. Artyom Matyuk, C, Nizhny Novgorod Jr. (Rus.)
7/205. Robert Cowan, RW, Western Michigan (NCHC)

NEW YORK RANGERS
1/5. Alberts Smits, D, Jukurit (Liiga)
2/64. Ben MacBeath, D, Calgary (WHL)
3/67. Danai Shaiikov, G, Gatineau (QMJHL)
3/77. Charlie Morrison, D, Quebec (QMJHL)
3/81. Tomas Chrenko, C, Nitra (Svk.)
4/102. Spencer Bowes, LW, Ottawa (OHL)
6/162. Andre Mondoux, D, Kingston (OHL)
6/163. Darian Anderson, RW, Flint (OHL)
7/193. Ivan Patrikhayev, D, CSKA Moscow (KHL)

OTTAWA SENATORS
1/25. Jonas Lagerberg Hoen, RW, Leksand Jr. (Swe.)
1/32. Jaxon Cover, RW, London (OHL)
3/72. Adam Nemec, LW, Sudbury (OHL)
3/87. Oscar Holmertz, C, Linkoping Jr. (Swe.)
3/91. Louis-Felix Bourque, RW, Drummondville (QMJHL)
4/110. Elliot Lennon, G, Deerfield (USHS)
5/151. Harris Pangretitsch, D, Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)
6/183. Alexander Grunin, D, Novosibirsk Jr. (Rus.)

PHILADELPHIA FLYERS
1/27. Maksim Sokolovskii, D, London (OHL)
2/53. Brek Liske, D, Everett (WHL)
2/62. Martin Psohlavec, G, Karlovy Vary Jr. (Cze.)
4/120. Marek Sklenicka, G, Seattle (WHL)
5/136. Kent Sauer, C, Andover (USHS)
7/213. Max Laatikainen, D, Kiekko-Espoo Jr. (Fin.)

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS
1/22. Liam Ruck, RW, Medicine Hat (WHL)
2/39. Markus Ruck, C, Medicine Hat (WHL)
2/54. Tomas Galvas, D, Liberec (Cze.)
3/86. Pierce Mbuyi, LW, Owen Sound (OHL)
4/111. Parker Von Richter, D, Brampton/Barrie (OHL)
5/160. Matvei Nikonovich, G, Togliatti Jr. (Rus.)

ST. LOUIS BLUES
1/11. Tynan Lawrence, C, Boston University (HE)
1/16. Maddox Dagenais, C, Quebec (QMJHL)
3/75. Luke Schairer, D, USA U18 (NTDP)
4/107. Landon Nycz, D, UMass (HE)
4/123. Vladimir Proskurin, G, Mytishchi Jr. (Rus.)
5/139. Nicholas Bogas, D, USA U18 (NTDP)
5/150. Carter Stevens, RW, Guelph (OHL)
6/171. Lars Steiner, RW, Rouyn-Noranda (QMJHL)
7/203. Colin Fitzgerald, C, Peterborough/S.S. Marie (OHL)

SAN JOSE SHARKS
1/2. Ivar Stenberg, LW, Frolunda (SHL)
1/9. Keaton Verhoeff, D, North Dakota (NCHC)
1/21. Ryan Lin, D, Vancouver (WHL)
4/127. Brady Knowling, G, USA U18 (NTDP)
6/174. Jake Gustafson, C, Portland (WHL)
7/201. Alexander Karmanov, D, North Bay (OHL)

SEATTLE KRAKEN
1/7. Chase Reid, D, Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)
2/38. Casey Mutryn, RW, USA U18 (NTDP)
4/99. Viktor Fedorov, C, Nizhny Novgorod (Rus.2)
5/131. Finn Kearns, D, St. Andrew's (CAHS)
5/148. Hawke Huff, D, Cedar Rapids (USHL)
6/166. Ola Palme, D, Vaxjo Jr. (Swe.)
7/198. Rylan Singh, D, Guelph (OHL)
7/204. William Tomko, C, Sioux City (USHL)

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING
2/52. Oleg Kulebiakin, RW, Halifax (QMJHL)
3/90. Tomas Kralovic, D, Bratislava (Svk.)
5/134. Morgan Anderberg, C, Vaxjo (SHL)
5/154. Cooper Soller, C, Sioux Falls (USHL)
6/186. Stepan Shurygin, G, Saginaw (OHL)
7/218. Max Vilen, D, Saint John/Moncton (QMJHL)

TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS
1/1. Gavin McKenna, LW, Penn State (Big Ten)
2/60. Alexander Bilecki, D, Kitchener (OHL)
3/69. Ethan MacKenzie, D, Edmonton (WHL)
3/73. Zach Olsen, RW, Saskatoon (WHL)
3/76. Mans Gudmundsson, D, Farjestad Jr. (Swe.)
3/85. Juuso Ainasto, G, Jokerit Jr. (Fin.)
4/114. Patriks Plumins, G, Zemgale (Lat.)
5/158. Cooper Williams, C, Saskatoon (WHL)
6/161. Yaroslav Fedoseyev, D, Chelyabinsk (Rus.2)
6/169. Brody Pepoy, RW, Saginaw (OHL)

UTAH MAMMOTH
1/17. Ethan Belchetz, LW, Windsor (OHL)
3/96. Adam Valentini, C, Michigan (Big Ten)
4/115. Carl Axelsson, G, Muskegon (USHL)
5/130. Theodor Knights, D, MoDo Jr. (Swe.)
5/147. Florent Houle, RW, Sherbrooke (QMJHL)
7/211. Artem Prima, LW, Minot (NAHL)

VANCOUVER CANUCKS
1/3. Caleb Malhotra, C, Brantford (OHL)
1/24. Adam Novotny, LW, Peterborough (OHL)
2/33. Brooks Rogowski, C, Oshawa (OHL)
2/41. Niklas Aaram-Olsen, LW, Orebro Jr. (Swe.)
3/78. Dmitri Ivchenko, G, Omsk Jr. (Rus.)
4/97. Yaroslav Bryzgalov, LW, Medicine Hat (WHL)
5/129. Connor Davis, RW, Cedar Rapids (USHL)
6/176. Lucian Bernat, RW, Tappara Jr. (Fin.)
6/184. Samuel Eriksson, D, Farjestad Jr. (Swe.)

VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS
1/29. Juho Piiparinen, D, Tappara (Liiga)
2/63. Forfeited (due to violations of media regulations)
3/92. Benjamin Wilmott, C, London/Barrie (OHL)
3/95. Sean Burick, D, Penticton (WHL)
4/113. Jonah Sivertson, RW, Prince Albert (WHL)
5/159. Will McLaughlin, D, Portland (WHL)
6/191. Matthew Minchak, G, Kingston (OHL)
7/207. Noel Pakarinen, LW, Kiekko-Espoo Jr. (Fin.)

WASHINGTON CAPITALS
1/18. Oliver Suvanto, C, Tappara (Liiga)
4/101. Tyus Sparks, C, Vancouver/Spokane (WHL)
5/144. Brian McFadden, D, Thayer (USHS)
7/208. Logan Stuart, C, USA U18 (NTDP)

WINNIPEG JETS
1/8. Viggo Bjorck, C, Djurgarden (SHL)
3/71. Samuel Hrenak, G, Team Slovakia U18 (Svk.2)
4/116. Zach Wooten, LW, Green Bay (USHL)
5/135. Alexandre Taillefer, D, Quebec (QMJHL)
6/167. Landon Hafele, C, Green Bay (USHL)
7/199. Alofa Tunoa Ta'amu, D, Edmonton (WHL)
7/220. John Parsons, G, Providence (HE)

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NHL SCHEDULE | 2026-27

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday, Sept. 29

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Florida	Carolina	5:00 PM
Montreal	Toronto	7:00 PM
NY Rangers	Boston	8:00 PM
Vancouver	Edmonton	10:00 PM
Chicago	Vegas	10:30 PM

Wednesday, Sept. 30

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Pittsburgh	Philadelphia	7:30 PM
Los Angeles	Colorado	10:00 PM
NY Islanders	Toronto	7:30 PM

OCTOBER

Thursday, Oct. 1

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Philadelphia	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Tampa Bay	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Buffalo	Columbus	7:00 PM
Minnesota	Nashville	8:00 PM
Chicago	Utah	9:00 PM
Seattle	Calgary	9:00 PM
Edmonton	Vancouver	10:00 PM
Florida	San Jose	10:00 PM

Friday, Oct. 2

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
NY Rangers	Detroit	6:30 PM
Washington	Carolina	7:00 PM
Boston	Winnipeg	8:00 PM
St. Louis	Dallas	9:00 PM
Anaheim	Vegas	10:00 PM

Saturday, Oct. 3

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Chicago	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Ottawa	Toronto	7:00 PM
Washington	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Carolina	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Montreal	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Utah	Columbus	7:00 PM
Seattle	Edmonton	7:00 PM
New Jersey	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Dallas	Nashville	8:00 PM
Boston	Minnesota	8:00 PM
St. Louis	Colorado	9:00 PM
Calgary	Vancouver	10:00 PM
Los Angeles	San Jose	10:00 PM

Sunday, Oct. 4

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Winnipeg	Detroit	1:00 PM
Utah	NY Rangers	6:00 PM
Florida	Anaheim	8:00 PM
Calgary	Seattle	8:00 PM
Vegas	Vancouver	9:00 PM

Monday, Oct. 5

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Philadelphia	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Ottawa	Boston	7:30 PM
Winnipeg	Pittsburgh	7:30 PM
San Jose	Dallas	8:00 PM

Tuesday, Oct. 6

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Nashville	Toronto	7:00 PM
Carolina	Montreal	7:00 PM
Ottawa	Detroit	7:00 PM
Utah	New Jersey	7:00 PM
NY Islanders	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Minnesota	Buffalo	8:00 PM
St. Louis	Chicago	8:00 PM
Vegas	Seattle	9:40 PM
Florida	Los Angeles	10:30 PM

Wednesday, Oct. 7

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Pittsburgh	Washington	7:30 PM
Colorado	Winnipeg	7:30 PM
Edmonton	Anaheim	10:00 PM

Thursday, Oct. 8

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Utah	Boston	7:00 PM
Dallas	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Nashville	Montreal	7:00 PM
Philadelphia	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Minnesota	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Vancouver	Carolina	7:00 PM
Chicago	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
San Jose	St. Louis	8:00 PM
Colorado	Calgary	9:00 PM
Toronto	Vegas	10:00 PM

Friday, Oct. 9

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Seattle	Detroit	7:00 PM
NY Rangers	Washington	7:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Columbus	7:00 PM
Anaheim	Winnipeg	8:00 PM

Saturday, Oct. 10

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Philadelphia	Boston	1:00 PM
Vancouver	New Jersey	3:30 PM
Edmonton	San Jose	4:00 PM
Minnesota	Florida	6:00 PM
Utah	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Detroit	Montreal	7:00 PM
Nashville	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Dallas	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Carolina	Chicago	7:00 PM
Columbus	St. Louis	7:00 PM
Toronto	Colorado	7:00 PM
Tampa Bay	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Anaheim	Calgary	10:00 PM
Los Angeles	Vegas	10:00 PM

Sunday, Oct. 11

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Seattle	Washington	5:00 PM
Vancouver	NY Rangers	6:00 PM
Carolina	Philadelphia	7:00 PM

Monday, Oct. 12

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Florida	Buffalo	1:00 PM
Ottawa	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Vegas	Minnesota	8:00 PM

Tuesday, Oct. 13

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
New Jersey	Detroit	6:00 PM
Florida	Columbus	6:15 PM
Buffalo	Montreal	6:30 PM
Washington	Carolina	6:45 PM
Seattle	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Tampa Bay	NY Rangers	7:15 PM
St. Louis	Ottawa	7:30 PM
Vancouver	NY Islanders	7:45 PM
Pittsburgh	Chicago	8:00 PM
Minnesota	Winnipeg	8:15 PM
Colorado	Dallas	8:30 PM
Vegas	Nashville	8:45 PM
Toronto	Utah	9:00 PM
Calgary	Anaheim	9:45 PM
Edmonton	Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Boston	San Jose	11:00 PM

Wednesday, Oct. 14

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Montreal	Washington	7:30 PM
Dallas	Colorado	9:30 PM

Thursday, Oct. 15

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Buffalo	Toronto	7:00 PM
NY Islanders	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Philadelphia	Detroit	7:00 PM
Seattle	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Vancouver	Florida	7:00 PM
NY Rangers	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Winnipeg	Chicago	8:00 PM
San Jose	Nashville	8:00 PM
St. Louis	Minnesota	8:00 PM
Utah	Edmonton	9:00 PM
Calgary	Vegas	10:00 PM

Friday, Oct. 16

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Pittsburgh	Colorado	9:00 PM
Boston	Anaheim	10:00 PM

Saturday, Oct. 17

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
New Jersey	Washington	1:00 PM
Carolina	Winnipeg	3:30 PM
Vancouver	Tampa Bay	4:00 PM
Seattle	Florida	6:00 PM
NY Islanders	Toronto	7:00 PM
Buffalo	Montreal	7:00 PM
San Jose	Detroit	7:00 PM
Ottawa	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
NY Rangers	Columbus	7:00 PM
Dallas	Chicago	7:00 PM
St. Louis	Nashville	8:00 PM
Boston	Los Angeles	9:00 PM
Edmonton	Utah	10:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Vegas	10:00 PM

Sunday, Oct. 18

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Columbus	Minnesota	6:00 PM
Carolina	Calgary	8:00 PM

Monday, Oct. 19

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Anaheim	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Colorado	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
San Jose	Toronto	7:30 PM
Pittsburgh	Utah	9:00 PM

Tuesday, Oct. 20

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
San Jose	Montreal	7:00 PM
Colorado	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Anaheim	NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Los Angeles	Washington	7:00 PM
Toronto	Columbus	7:00 PM
Winnipeg	St. Louis	8:00 PM
Boston	Dallas	8:00 PM
Minnesota	Edmonton	9:00 PM
Detroit	Seattle	9:40 PM
Carolina	Vancouver	10:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Vegas	10:30 PM

Wednesday, Oct. 21

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Philadelphia	Buffalo	7:30 PM
Florida	Ottawa	7:30 PM

Thursday, Oct. 22

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Nashville	Boston	7:00 PM
NY Rangers	Toronto	7:00 PM
San Jose	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Anaheim	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Florida	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Los Angeles	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Vegas	St. Louis	8:00 PM
Winnipeg	Dallas	8:00 PM
Minnesota	Calgary	9:00 PM
Carolina	Edmonton	9:00 PM
Utah	Seattle	9:40 PM
Detroit	Vancouver	10:00 PM

Friday, Oct. 23

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Montreal	Chicago	8:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Colorado	9:00 PM

Saturday, Oct. 24

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Anaheim	Philadelphia	1:00 PM
Los Angeles	New Jersey	3:30 PM
San Jose	Boston	7:00 PM
NY Rangers	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Nashville	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Buffalo	Washington	7:00 PM
Vegas	Columbus	7:00 PM
Carolina	St. Louis	7:00 PM
Toronto	Edmonton	7:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Utah	9:00 PM
Detroit	Calgary	10:00 PM
Minnesota	Seattle	10:00 PM

Sunday, Oct. 25

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Florida	Chicago	3:00 PM
NY Islanders	Dallas	6:00 PM
Montreal	Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Colorado	Nashville	8:00 PM
Minnesota	Vancouver	10:00 PM

Monday, Oct. 26

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Los Angeles	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Toronto	Calgary	8:30 PM
Detroit	Edmonton	9:30 PM

Tuesday, Oct. 27

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Columbus	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Boston	Carolina	8:00 PM
Los Angeles	Chicago	8:00 PM
Montreal	St. Louis	8:00 PM
NY Islanders	Nashville	8:00 PM
New Jersey	Dallas	8:00 PM
Florida	Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Minnesota	Utah	9:00 PM
Ottawa	Vegas	10:00 PM
Vancouver	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Buffalo	San Jose	10:30 PM

Wednesday, Oct. 28

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Philadelphia	Washington	7:30 PM
Calgary	Edmonton	8:30 PM
New Jersey	Colorado	9:00 PM
Toronto	Seattle	10:00 PM

Thursday, Oct. 29

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Chicago	Detroit	7:00 PM
Winnipeg	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Utah	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Columbus	Carolina	7:00 PM
Boston	St. Louis	8:00 PM
Washington	Nashville	8:00 PM
Montreal	Dallas	8:00 PM
NY Islanders	Minnesota	8:00 PM
Buffalo	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Ottawa	Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Vancouver	San Jose	10:00 PM

Friday, Oct. 30

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
New Jersey	Vegas	6:00 PM
Winnipeg	Florida	7:00 PM
Seattle	Calgary	8:00 PM

Saturday, Oct. 31

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Chicago	Boston	1:00 PM
St. Louis	Detroit	1:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Nashville	2:00 PM
Edmonton	NY Islanders	3:30 PM
Buffalo	Los Angeles	4:00 PM
Ottawa	San Jose	4:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Montreal	7:00 PM
Toronto	Vancouver	7:00 PM
Columbus	Dallas	8:00 PM
Calgary	Colorado	10:00 PM

NOVEMBER

Sunday, Nov. 1

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Winnipeg	Carolina	1:00 PM
Minnesota	Washington	3:30 PM
Utah	Philadelphia	4:00 PM
Edmonton	NY Rangers	6:00 PM
Ottawa	Anaheim	8:00 PM

Monday, Nov. 2

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Vegas	Boston	7:00 PM
Detroit	Florida	7:00 PM
Colorado	Chicago	8:00 PM
Calgary	San Jose	9:00 PM

Tuesday, Nov. 3

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Utah	Toronto	7:00 PM
Winnipeg	Montreal	7:00 PM
Detroit	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Edmonton	New Jersey	7:00 PM
St. Louis	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Minnesota	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Vegas	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Dallas	Washington	7:00 PM
Colorado	Columbus	7:00 PM
Carolina	Nashville	8:00 PM
Anaheim	Vancouver	9:00 PM

Wednesday, Nov. 4

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Ottawa	Buffalo	7:30 PM
Chicago	Florida	7:30 PM
San Jose	Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Calgary	Seattle	10:00 PM

Thursday, Nov. 5

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Utah	Montreal	7:00 PM
Vegas	Detroit	7:00 PM
Chicago	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
St. Louis	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Carolina	NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Philadelphia	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Boston	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Dallas	Columbus	7:00 PM
Vancouver	Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Anaheim	Edmonton	8:00 PM
Nashville	Colorado	9:00 PM

Friday, Nov. 6

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Columbus	Buffalo	7:00 PM
San Jose	Minnesota	8:00 PM
Anaheim	Calgary	8:00 PM

Saturday, Nov. 7

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Florida	Washington	12:30 PM
St. Louis	Nashville	1:30 PM
NY Rangers	Seattle	5:00 PM
Montreal	Toronto	7:00 PM
Utah	Ottawa	7:00 PM
New Jersey	NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Chicago	Carolina	8:00 PM
San Jose	Dallas	8:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Minnesota	8:00 PM
Detroit	Colorado	9:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Los Angeles	9:00 PM
Vancouver	Edmonton	10:00 PM

Sunday, Nov. 8

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Florida	Boston	1:00 PM
Vegas	Buffalo	3:30 PM
New Jersey	Toronto	7:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Philadelphia	Calgary	7:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Anaheim	8:00 PM

Monday, Nov. 9

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
NY Rangers	Edmonton	8:00 PM
Philadelphia	Vancouver	9:30 PM
NY Islanders	San Jose	10:00 PM

Tuesday, Nov. 10

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Colorado	Toronto	7:00 PM
Minnesota	Montreal	7:00 PM
Washington	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Florida	Columbus	7:00 PM
Detroit	St. Louis	8:00 PM
New Jersey	Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Nashville	Los Angeles	10:00 PM

Wednesday, Nov. 11

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Tampa Bay	Buffalo	7:30 PM
NY Rangers	Calgary	7:30 PM
Philadelphia	Edmonton	9:00 PM
Utah	Vegas	10:00 PM
Nashville	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Pittsburgh	San Jose	10:00 PM

Thursday, Nov. 12

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Montreal	Boston	7:00 PM
Minnesota	Toronto	7:00 PM
Colorado	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Detroit	Florida	7:00 PM
Washington	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Columbus	7:00 PM
Buffalo	Chicago	8:00 PM
Winnipeg	Dallas	8:00 PM
St. Louis	Utah	9:00 PM
NY Islanders	Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Carolina	Seattle	12:00 PM

Friday, Nov. 13

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
NY Rangers	Vancouver	9:00 PM
Nashville	Vegas	10:00 PM

Saturday, Nov. 14

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Winnipeg	Chicago	3:30 PM
Minnesota	Boston	7:00 PM
Edmonton	Toronto	7:00 PM
Colorado	Montreal	7:00 PM
Detroit	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Ottawa	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
New Jersey	Washington	7:00 PM
Philadelphia	Columbus	7:00 PM
Florida	St. Louis	7:00 PM
Seattle	Carolina	1:00 PM
Buffalo	Dallas	8:00 PM
San Jose	Utah	9:00 PM
NY Islanders	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Calgary	Los Angeles	10:00 PM

Sunday, Nov. 15

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Edmonton	Philadelphia	7:30 PM
Florida	Dallas	8:00 PM
Calgary	Anaheim	8:00 PM
Vancouver	Vegas	9:00 PM
Nashville	San Jose	9:00 PM

Monday, Nov. 16

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Montreal	NY Rangers	7:30 PM
Vancouver	Utah	9:30 PM

Tuesday, Nov. 17

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Los Angeles	Boston	7:00 PM
Washington	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Edmonton	Florida	7:00 PM
Columbus	NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Buffalo	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Toronto	Chicago	7:30 PM
Anaheim	St. Louis	8:00 PM
Nashville	Minnesota	8:00 PM
Ottawa	Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Dallas	Vegas	10:00 PM
Calgary	San Jose	10:00 PM

Wednesday, Nov. 18

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Boston	Detroit	7:30 PM
Montreal	New Jersey	7:30 PM
Colorado	Utah	9:00 PM

Thursday, Nov. 19

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Los Angeles	Toronto	7:00 PM
Philadelphia	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Edmonton	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
St. Louis	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Buffalo	Washington	7:00 PM
Montreal	Carolina	7:00 PM
Columbus	Chicago	8:00 PM
NY Islanders	Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Minnesota	Calgary	8:00 PM
Anaheim	Colorado	9:00 PM
Vancouver	Seattle	9:40 PM
Dallas	Vegas	10:00 PM

Saturday, Nov. 21

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Edmonton	Carolina	1:00 PM
Chicago	Calgary	3:30 PM
Buffalo	Florida	6:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Nashville	6:00 PM
Washington	Boston	7:00 PM
Columbus	Toronto	7:00 PM

All times Eastern (ET)

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Philadelphia	Montreal	7:00 PM
Los Angeles	Ottawa	7:00 PM
NY Islanders	Detroit	7:00 PM
New Jersey	St. Louis	7:00 PM
Vegas	Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Anaheim	Utah	9:00 PM
Minnesota	Vancouver	10:00 PM
Seattle	San Jose	10:00 PM
Sunday, Nov. 22		
Carolina	NY Rangers	1:00 PM
Buffalo	Tampa Bay	5:00 PM
Edmonton	St. Louis	7:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Dallas	7:00 PM
Chicago	Vancouver	8:00 PM
Monday, Nov. 23		
Columbus	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Los Angeles	Montreal	7:30 PM
Calgary	Ottawa	7:30 PM
Toronto	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Utah	Winnipeg	7:30 PM
Anaheim	Seattle	9:40 PM
Minnesota	San Jose	10:00 PM
Tuesday, Nov. 24		
Vegas	Edmonton	8:00 PM
Wednesday, Nov. 25		
Winnipeg	Boston	7:00 PM
NY Rangers	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Carolina	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Ottawa	Florida	7:00 PM
St. Louis	NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Calgary	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Philadelphia	Washington	7:00 PM
New Jersey	Columbus	7:00 PM
Vancouver	Detroit	7:30 PM
Nashville	Dallas	8:00 PM
Utah	Minnesota	8:00 PM
Montreal	Colorado	9:30 PM
San Jose	Anaheim	9:30 PM
Chicago	Seattle	9:40 PM
Friday, Nov. 27		
Toronto	Boston	1:00 PM
Calgary	New Jersey	1:00 PM
Utah	Nashville	1:00 PM
Dallas	St. Louis	2:00 PM
Ottawa	Tampa Bay	3:00 PM
Vancouver	Philadelphia	3:00 PM
Florida	Washington	3:00 PM
Detroit	Columbus	3:00 PM
Colorado	Minnesota	4:00 PM
Los Angeles	Anaheim	4:00 PM
Vegas	San Jose	4:00 PM
NY Rangers	Chicago	5:30 PM
Winnipeg	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Pittsburgh	Buffalo	8:00 PM
Seattle	Edmonton	8:00 PM
Saturday, Nov. 28		
Montreal	Vegas	4:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Florida	6:00 PM
Nashville	Detroit	7:00 PM
Winnipeg	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Calgary	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Toronto	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Ottawa	Carolina	7:00 PM
Washington	St. Louis	7:00 PM
NY Islanders	Philadelphia	7:30 PM
Utah	Dallas	8:00 PM
San Jose	Colorado	9:00 PM
Anaheim	Los Angeles	9:00 PM
Edmonton	Seattle	10:00 PM
Sunday, Nov. 29		
Minnesota	Chicago	3:00 PM
Vancouver	Boston	5:00 PM
Monday, Nov. 30		
Ottawa	Nashville	1:00 PM
Carolina	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Columbus	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Philadelphia	Toronto	7:30 PM
Chicago	Winnipeg	7:30 PM
Montreal	Utah	9:30 PM
DECEMBER		
Tuesday, Dec. 1		
Calgary	Detroit	7:00 PM
San Jose	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Florida	NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Vancouver	Washington	7:00 PM
Colorado	Boston	7:30 PM
Buffalo	Edmonton	8:00 PM
Dallas	Seattle	9:40 PM
Minnesota	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Vegas	Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Wednesday, Dec. 2		
Tampa Bay	Montreal	7:30 PM
Pittsburgh	St. Louis	8:00 PM
Winnipeg	Utah	9:30 PM
Thursday, Dec. 3		
Florida	Toronto	7:00 PM
New Jersey	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Colorado	Detroit	7:00 PM
San Jose	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
NY Islanders	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Columbus	Carolina	7:00 PM
Chicago	Nashville	8:00 PM
Buffalo	Calgary	8:00 PM
Washington	Edmonton	8:00 PM
Dallas	Seattle	9:40 PM
Utah	Vegas	10:00 PM
Minnesota	Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Friday, Dec. 4		
San Jose	NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Chicago	St. Louis	8:00 PM
Buffalo	Vancouver	9:00 PM
Seattle	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Saturday, Dec. 5		
Detroit	Boston	1:00 PM
Florida	Montreal	1:00 PM
Columbus	Nashville	2:00 PM
New Jersey	Pittsburgh	3:00 PM
Washington	Calgary	3:30 PM
Tampa Bay	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Colorado	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Toronto	Carolina	7:00 PM
Winnipeg	Vegas	7:00 PM
Philadelphia	Minnesota	8:00 PM
Utah	Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Dallas	Vancouver	10:00 PM
Sunday, Dec. 6		
San Jose	Pittsburgh	3:00 PM
Nashville	St. Louis	5:00 PM
Ottawa	Montreal	7:00 PM
Edmonton	Chicago	7:00 PM
Winnipeg	Anaheim	8:00 PM
Buffalo	Seattle	8:00 PM
Monday, Dec. 7		
Colorado	NY Islanders	1:00 PM
Columbus	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
New Jersey	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Washington	Vancouver	9:00 PM
Tuesday, Dec. 8		
Vegas	Montreal	7:00 PM
Anaheim	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Boston	Florida	7:00 PM
Chicago	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
NY Rangers	Carolina	7:00 PM
Colorado	St. Louis	8:00 PM
Philadelphia	Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Nashville	Calgary	8:00 PM
Edmonton	Minnesota	9:00 PM
Seattle	San Jose	10:00 PM
Wednesday, Dec. 9		
Detroit	New Jersey	7:30 PM
Toronto	Dallas	7:30 PM
San Jose	Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Thursday, Dec. 10		
Edmonton	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Anaheim	Montreal	7:00 PM
Vegas	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Boston	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Florida	7:00 PM
Calgary	NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Minnesota	Columbus	7:00 PM
Chicago	Winnipeg	8:00 PM
St. Louis	Utah	9:00 PM
Nashville	Vancouver	9:00 PM
Washington	Seattle	9:00 PM
Friday, Dec. 11		
NY Rangers	Detroit	7:00 PM
Calgary	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
NY Islanders	Carolina	7:00 PM
Los Angeles	San Jose	10:00 PM
Saturday, Dec. 12		
New Jersey	Boston	1:00 PM
Montreal	Columbus	1:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Tampa Bay	3:30 PM
Winnipeg	Minnesota	3:30 PM
Anaheim	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Vegas	Toronto	7:00 PM
Edmonton	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Florida	Detroit	7:00 PM
Utah	Chicago	7:00 PM
St. Louis	Dallas	8:00 PM
Washington	Colorado	9:00 PM
Vancouver	Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Nashville	Seattle	10:00 PM
Sunday, Dec. 13		
Boston	Carolina	1:00 PM
Columbus	NY Rangers	6:00 PM
Anaheim	Toronto	7:00 PM
Tampa Bay	St. Louis	8:00 PM
Monday, Dec. 14		
Buffalo	Ottawa	2:00 PM
Florida	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Edmonton	Montreal	7:30 PM
Utah	Colorado	9:00 PM
Vancouver	San Jose	10:00 PM
Tuesday, Dec. 15		
Florida	Boston	7:00 PM
Calgary	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Los Angeles	Detroit	7:00 PM
NY Rangers	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Carolina	Columbus	7:00 PM
Winnipeg	St. Louis	8:00 PM
Seattle	Nashville	8:00 PM
Toronto	Minnesota	8:00 PM
NY Islanders	Utah	9:00 PM
Washington	Dallas	9:30 PM
Wednesday, Dec. 16		
NY Rangers	Philadelphia	7:30 PM
NY Islanders	Colorado	9:00 PM
Vancouver	Anaheim	9:00 PM
San Jose	Vegas	10:00 PM
Thursday, Dec. 17		
St. Louis	Boston	7:00 PM
Calgary	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Toronto	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Los Angeles	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Detroit	Washington	7:00 PM
Seattle	Columbus	7:00 PM
Dallas	Edmonton	8:00 PM
Carolina	Utah	9:00 PM
Friday, Dec. 18		
Chicago	Ottawa	1:00 PM
Montreal	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Nashville	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Detroit	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Seattle	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Anaheim	Minnesota	8:00 PM
Carolina	Colorado	9:00 PM
NY Islanders	Vegas	10:00 PM
Saturday, Dec. 19		
Boston	New Jersey	12:00 PM
Calgary	Florida	1:00 PM
Utah	Edmonton	3:30 PM
Tampa Bay	Toronto	7:00 PM
St. Louis	Washington	7:00 PM
Los Angeles	Columbus	7:00 PM
Montreal	Minnesota	7:00 PM
Dallas	Winnipeg	7:00 PM
San Jose	Vancouver	10:00 PM
Sunday, Dec. 20		
Ottawa	Chicago	8:00 AM
Philadelphia	Boston	1:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Detroit	5:00 PM
Los Angeles	Buffalo	6:00 PM
Dallas	Winnipeg	6:00 PM
Nashville	New Jersey	7:00 PM
NY Rangers	NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Anaheim	Edmonton	7:00 PM
Seattle	Colorado	8:00 PM
Monday, Dec. 21		
Washington	Toronto	1:00 PM
St. Louis	Florida	7:00 PM
Columbus	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Utah	Vancouver	9:00 PM
Carolina	Vegas	10:00 PM
Tuesday, Dec. 22		
St. Louis	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Boston	NY Islanders	7:00 PM
New Jersey	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Buffalo	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Montreal	Columbus	7:00 PM
Toronto	Detroit	7:30 PM
Winnipeg	Nashville	8:00 PM
Calgary	Dallas	8:00 PM
Los Angeles	Minnesota	8:00 PM
San Jose	Seattle	9:40 PM
Vegas	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Saturday, Dec. 26		
Tampa Bay	Florida	6:00 PM
NY Islanders	Boston	7:00 PM
New Jersey	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Toronto	Montreal	7:00 PM
Columbus	Washington	7:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Carolina	7:00 PM
Detroit	Nashville	7:00 PM
Winnipeg	Minnesota	7:00 PM
Vancouver	Calgary	10:00 PM
Utah	Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Vegas	San Jose	10:00 PM
Sunday, Dec. 27		
Philadelphia	Chicago	3:00 PM
Edmonton	Columbus	5:00 PM
NY Rangers	St. Louis	5:00 PM
Dallas	Montreal	7:00 PM
Boston	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Ottawa	NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Colorado	Anaheim	8:00 PM
Monday, Dec. 28		
Vegas	Minnesota	2:00 PM
Detroit	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Nashville	Florida	7:00 PM
Edmonton	Washington	7:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Carolina	7:00 PM
San Jose	Winnipeg	7:30 PM
Los Angeles	Vancouver	9:30 PM
Tuesday, Dec. 29		
Columbus	Montreal	7:00 PM
Dallas	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Nashville	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Detroit	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Carolina	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Vegas	Chicago	8:00 PM
San Jose	Calgary	8:00 PM
St. Louis	Colorado	9:00 PM
New Jersey	Utah	9:00 PM
Philadelphia	Seattle	9:40 PM
Toronto	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Wednesday, Dec. 30		
Washington	NY Islanders	4:00 PM
Buffalo	Florida	7:00 PM
Edmonton	Boston	7:30 PM
Seattle	Vancouver	9:30 PM
Toronto	Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Thursday, Dec. 31		
Pittsburgh	Ottawa	2:00 PM
Carolina	Detroit	2:00 PM
Montreal	Tampa Bay	2:00 PM
Washington	Columbus	2:00 PM
St. Louis	Vegas	3:00 PM
Colorado	Utah	6:00 PM
Winnipeg	Calgary	8:00 PM
NY Rangers	Dallas	9:00 PM
JANUARY		
Friday, Jan. 1		
Florida	Nashville	2:00 PM
Boston	Chicago	3:00 PM
New Jersey	Anaheim	4:00 PM
Philadelphia	San Jose	4:00 PM
Minnesota	Pittsburgh	6:00 PM
Saturday, Jan. 2		
Edmonton	Detroit	1:00 PM
Montreal	Florida	4:00 PM
Buffalo	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Ottawa	Washington	7:00 PM
Nashville	Carolina	7:00 PM
Boston	Columbus	7:00 PM
St. Louis	Minnesota	7:00 PM
Calgary	Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Toronto	San Jose	7:00 PM
Chicago	Dallas	8:00 PM
New Jersey	Los Angeles	9:00 PM
Vancouver	Utah	10:00 PM
Colorado	Vegas	10:00 PM
NY Islanders	Seattle	10:00 PM
Sunday, Jan. 3		
Edmonton	Pittsburgh	3:00 PM
Columbus	NY Rangers	6:00 PM
Calgary	St. Louis	7:00 PM
Philadelphia	Anaheim	8:00 PM
Vancouver	Seattle	8:00 PM
Monday, Jan. 4		
Winnipeg	Buffalo	7:30 PM
Chicago	Montreal	7:30 PM
Toronto	Washington	7:30 PM
Detroit	Dallas	8:00 PM
Vegas	Colorado	9:00 PM
Philadelphia	Los Angeles	10:00 PM
New Jersey	San Jose	10:00 PM
Tuesday, Jan. 5		
St. Louis	Carolina	7:00 PM
NY Rangers	Columbus	7:00 PM
Buffalo	Boston	7:30 PM
Edmonton	Nashville	8:00 PM
Florida	Calgary	8:00 PM
Ottawa	Utah	9:00 PM
NY Islanders	Vancouver	9:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Seattle	9:40 PM
Minnesota	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Wednesday, Jan. 6		
Boston	Montreal	7:30 PM
Ottawa	Colorado	9:30 PM
Washington	Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Dallas	San Jose	10:00 PM
Thursday, Jan. 7		
Utah	Detroit	7:00 PM
Columbus	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Chicago	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Toronto	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Carolina	7:00 PM
Nashville	Winnipeg	8:00 PM
NY Islanders	Calgary	8:00 PM
Florida	Edmonton	8:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Vancouver	9:00 PM
Minnesota	Vegas	9:30 PM
Friday, Jan. 8		
Buffalo	Columbus	7:00 PM
Ottawa	St. Louis	8:00 PM
Seattle	Colorado	9:00 PM
Dallas	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Washington	San Jose	10:00 PM
Saturday, Jan. 9		
Chicago	New Jersey	12:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Calgary	3:30 PM
NY Islanders	Edmonton	3:30 PM
Carolina	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Philadelphia	Toronto	7:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Montreal	7:00 PM
Boston	Detroit	7:00 PM
Utah	Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Nashville	Minnesota	8:00 PM
Dallas	Los Angeles	9:00 PM
Florida	Vancouver	10:00 PM
Seattle	Vegas	10:00 PM
NY Rangers	San Jose	10:00 PM
Sunday, Jan. 10		
Chicago	Philadelphia	7:30 PM
Nashville	Colorado	8:00 PM
Washington	Anaheim	8:00 PM
Monday, Jan. 11		
Winnipeg	Toronto	7:30 PM
Tampa Bay	Edmonton	8:30 PM
NY Rangers	Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Tuesday, Jan. 12		
Carolina	Boston	7:00 PM
New Jersey	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Colorado	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Vegas	Washington	7:00 PM
Utah	Chicago	8:00 PM
Philadelphia	Nashville	8:00 PM
Ottawa	Dallas	8:00 PM

**All times Eastern (ET)*

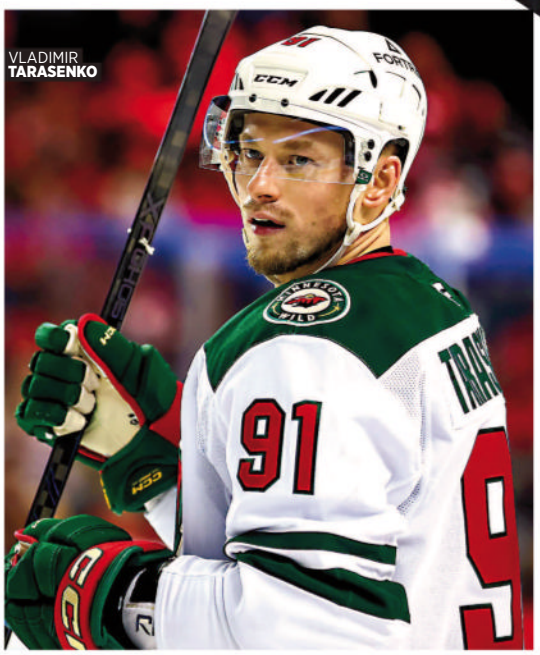
NHL SCHEDULE | 2026-27

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Columbus	Calgary	8:00 PM
Florida	Seattle	9:40 PM
NY Rangers	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Wednesday, Jan. 13		
New Jersey	Montreal	7:00 PM
Pittsburgh	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Detroit	Utah	9:00 PM
San Jose	Edmonton	9:00 PM
St. Louis	Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Thursday, Jan. 14		
Dallas	Boston	7:00 PM
Colorado	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Chicago	Toronto	7:00 PM
Winnipeg	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Vegas	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Carolina	Washington	7:00 PM
Montreal	Nashville	8:00 PM
San Jose	Calgary	8:00 PM
Florida	Minnesota	9:00 PM
Seattle	Vancouver	9:00 PM
St. Louis	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Friday, Jan. 15		
Dallas	NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Philadelphia	Carolina	7:00 PM
Columbus	Edmonton	8:00 PM
Los Angeles	Utah	9:00 PM
Saturday, Jan. 16		
Boston	NY Rangers	12:00 PM
Ottawa	Tampa Bay	3:30 PM
Vegas	Florida	6:00 PM
Nashville	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Toronto	7:00 PM
NY Islanders	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Montreal	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Colorado	Washington	7:00 PM
Detroit	Chicago	7:00 PM
Minnesota	St. Louis	7:00 PM
Anaheim	Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Los Angeles	Calgary	10:00 PM
Columbus	Vancouver	10:00 PM
San Jose	Seattle	10:00 PM
Sunday, Jan. 17		
Minnesota	Detroit	5:00 PM
Dallas	NY Rangers	6:00 PM
Vegas	Carolina	6:00 PM
Winnipeg	Edmonton	7:00 PM
Monday, Jan. 18		
Montreal	Buffalo	1:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Boston	1:30 PM
Nashville	NY Islanders	3:00 PM
Vancouver	Colorado	3:00 PM
Washington	Pittsburgh	4:00 PM
Utah	San Jose	4:00 PM
Columbus	Seattle	4:00 PM
St. Louis	Toronto	7:30 PM
Ottawa	Florida	7:30 PM
Calgary	Chicago	8:30 PM
Tuesday, Jan. 19		
Anaheim	Detroit	7:00 PM
Dallas	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Philadelphia	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Montreal	Washington	7:00 PM
Minnesota	Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Seattle	Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Wednesday, Jan. 20		
Vancouver	Nashville	2:00 PM
Buffalo	NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Toronto	Ottawa	7:30 PM
Boston	Colorado	9:00 PM
Dallas	Chicago	9:30 PM
Edmonton	Vegas	10:00 PM
Thursday, Jan. 21		
Seattle	Buffalo	7:00 PM
St. Louis	Montreal	7:00 PM
Carolina	Florida	7:00 PM
Tampa Bay	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Nashville	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Anaheim	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Calgary	Columbus	7:00 PM
NY Rangers	Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Detroit	Minnesota	9:00 PM
Edmonton	Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Friday, Jan. 22		
NY Islanders	Washington	7:00 PM
Vancouver	Chicago	8:00 PM
Colorado	Dallas	8:00 PM
Boston	Vegas	10:00 PM
Saturday, Jan. 23		
Tampa Bay	Detroit	1:00 PM
Columbus	Ottawa	3:30 PM
Los Angeles	Nashville	5:00 PM
Calgary	Montreal	7:00 PM
Vancouver	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Anaheim	Carolina	7:00 PM
Toronto	St. Louis	7:00 PM
Seattle	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
New Jersey	Philadelphia	7:30 PM
NY Rangers	Minnesota	8:00 PM
Boston	Utah	9:00 PM
Edmonton	San Jose	10:00 PM
Sunday, Jan. 24		
Buffalo	Winnipeg	3:00 PM
Anaheim	Columbus	5:00 PM
Dallas	Colorado	5:00 PM
Los Angeles	Florida	6:00 PM
Washington	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Vegas	Chicago	7:00 PM
Monday, Jan. 25		
Pittsburgh	Detroit	7:00 PM
Seattle	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Carolina	Ottawa	7:30 PM
Minnesota	Utah	9:00 PM
Tuesday, Jan. 26		
Columbus	Boston	7:00 PM
Calgary	Toronto	7:00 PM
Carolina	Montreal	7:00 PM
Los Angeles	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Seattle	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Florida	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
NY Islanders	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Chicago	St. Louis	8:00 PM
Vegas	Nashville	8:00 PM
Anaheim	Dallas	8:00 PM
Vancouver	Minnesota	8:00 PM
Edmonton	Colorado	9:00 PM
Wednesday, Jan. 27		
Toronto	Detroit	7:30 PM
Florida	NY Rangers	7:30 PM
Buffalo	Utah	9:00 PM
Thursday, Jan. 28		
Boston	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Los Angeles	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
NY Islanders	Carolina	7:00 PM
Winnipeg	Columbus	7:00 PM
Colorado	St. Louis	8:00 PM
Vancouver	Dallas	8:00 PM
Montreal	Calgary	8:00 PM
New Jersey	Edmonton	8:00 PM
Seattle	Minnesota	9:00 PM
Buffalo	Vegas	10:00 PM
Chicago	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Nashville	San Jose	10:00 PM
Friday, Jan. 29		
Florida	Detroit	7:00 PM
NY Rangers	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Washington	Utah	9:00 PM
Saturday, Jan. 30		
Winnipeg	Philadelphia	1:00 PM
Vancouver	St. Louis	3:30 PM
New Jersey	Calgary	3:30 PM
Chicago	San Jose	4:00 PM
Buffalo	Colorado	5:00 PM
Toronto	Boston	7:00 PM
NY Rangers	Ottawa	7:00 PM
NY Islanders	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Los Angeles	Carolina	7:00 PM
Detroit	Columbus	7:00 PM
Montreal	Edmonton	7:00 PM
Dallas	Minnesota	9:00 PM
Washington	Vegas	10:00 PM
Nashville	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sunday, Jan. 31		
Philadelphia	Pittsburgh	12:00 PM
New Jersey	Seattle	4:00 PM
Nashville	Utah	8:00 PM
FEBRUARY		
Monday, Feb. 1		
NY Islanders	Florida	1:00 PM
Vegas	Calgary	7:30 PM
Montreal	Vancouver	8:30 PM
Tuesday, Feb. 2		
Winnipeg	Washington	6:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Nashville	Utah	9:00 PM
Wednesday, Feb. 3		
NY Islanders	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Washington	Florida	7:00 PM
Winnipeg	NY Rangers	7:30 PM
Tampa Bay	Philadelphia	7:30 PM
Utah	Calgary	9:00 PM
Vegas	Edmonton	9:00 PM
New Jersey	Vancouver	9:00 PM
Montreal	Seattle	9:40 PM
Friday, Feb. 5		
NHL All-Star Skills		
Saturday, Feb. 6		
NHL All-Star Game		
Monday, Feb. 8		
Columbus	Toronto	7:30 PM
Los Angeles	Dallas	8:00 PM
Tuesday, Feb. 9		
Columbus	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Colorado	Carolina	7:00 PM
Los Angeles	St. Louis	8:00 PM
Detroit	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Wednesday, Feb. 10		
Boston	Toronto	7:30 PM
Chicago	San Jose	10:00 PM
Thursday, Feb. 11		
Ottawa	Columbus	7:00 PM
Minnesota	Carolina	7:30 PM
Chicago	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Detroit	Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Friday, Feb. 12		
Dallas	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Colorado	Florida	7:00 PM
NY Islanders	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
St. Louis	Edmonton	8:00 PM
Calgary	Utah	9:00 PM
Saturday, Feb. 13		
Washington	Montreal	1:00 PM
Anaheim	Nashville	1:30 PM
Detroit	San Jose	4:00 PM
Dallas	Florida	6:00 PM
Chicago	Los Angeles	6:00 PM
Columbus	Boston	7:00 PM
Toronto	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Colorado	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Minnesota	NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Buffalo	Carolina	7:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Edmonton	7:00 PM
New Jersey	Philadelphia	7:30 PM
Winnipeg	Vancouver	10:00 PM
Calgary	Vegas	10:00 PM
St. Louis	Seattle	10:00 PM
Sunday, Feb. 14		
NY Rangers	Montreal	1:00 PM
Utah	Washington	1:00 PM
Monday, Feb. 15		
Anaheim	Boston	12:30 PM
Utah	NY Islanders	3:00 PM
Buffalo	NY Rangers	3:00 PM
Columbus	Colorado	3:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Seattle	4:00 PM
Ottawa	Minnesota	7:30 PM
Winnipeg	San Jose	7:30 PM
Philadelphia	St. Louis	8:00 PM
Detroit	Vegas	10:00 PM
Calgary	Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Tuesday, Feb. 16		
Carolina	Toronto	7:00 PM
Florida	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Anaheim	Washington	7:00 PM
New Jersey	Nashville	8:00 PM
Minnesota	Dallas	8:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Vancouver	9:00 PM
Wednesday, Feb. 17		
St. Louis	Chicago	7:30 PM
Los Angeles	Winnipeg	7:30 PM
Columbus	Utah	9:00 PM
Boston	Calgary	9:00 PM
Colorado	Edmonton	9:00 PM
Ottawa	Seattle	9:40 PM
Thursday, Feb. 18		
Carolina	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Montreal	Detroit	7:00 PM
Anaheim	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
New Jersey	Florida	7:00 PM
NY Rangers	NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Toronto	Nashville	8:00 PM
Philadelphia	Dallas	8:00 PM
Los Angeles	Minnesota	8:00 PM
Ottawa	Vancouver	9:00 PM
Columbus	Vegas	10:30 PM
Friday, Feb. 19		
San Jose	Washington	7:00 PM
Detroit	Carolina	7:00 PM
St. Louis	Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Calgary	8:00 PM
Boston	Edmonton	8:00 PM
Seattle	Utah	9:00 PM
Saturday, Feb. 20		
NY Rangers	Philadelphia	12:00 PM
Buffalo	New Jersey	3:00 PM
Minnesota	Chicago	3:00 PM
Anaheim	Florida	5:00 PM
Nashville	Columbus	5:00 PM
NY Islanders	Montreal	7:00 PM
Toronto	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Vegas	Dallas	8:00 PM
Colorado	Vancouver	10:00 PM
Seattle	Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Sunday, Feb. 21		
NY Rangers	Carolina	1:00 PM
Buffalo	Detroit	3:30 PM
New Jersey	Chicago	3:30 PM
San Jose	Florida	6:00 PM
Nashville	Washington	6:00 PM
Utah	St. Louis	6:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Winnipeg	6:00 PM
Ottawa	Calgary	7:00 PM
Boston	Vancouver	8:00 PM
Monday, Feb. 22		
Montreal	Philadelphia	1:00 PM
NY Islanders	Columbus	7:00 PM
Ottawa	Edmonton	7:30 PM
Vegas	Colorado	9:00 PM
Boston	Seattle	9:40 PM
Tuesday, Feb. 23		
Detroit	Toronto	7:00 PM
San Jose	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Carolina	New Jersey	7:00 PM
NY Rangers	Washington	7:00 PM
NY Islanders	Chicago	8:00 PM
Winnipeg	Nashville	8:00 PM
Vancouver	Dallas	8:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Minnesota	8:00 PM
Wednesday, Feb. 24		
Buffalo	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Calgary	Utah	8:00 PM
Florida	Vegas	9:30 PM
Seattle	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Montreal	Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Thursday, Feb. 25		
Detroit	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Toronto	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
San Jose	Carolina	7:00 PM
Washington	Boston	8:00 PM
Vancouver	St. Louis	8:00 PM
Edmonton	Nashville	8:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Dallas	8:00 PM
Winnipeg	Colorado	10:30 PM
Friday, Feb. 26		
Philadelphia	NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Washington	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
New Jersey	Columbus	7:00 PM
Ottawa	Buffalo	7:30 PM
Los Angeles	Chicago	8:00 PM
Florida	Utah	9:00 PM
Anaheim	Vegas	9:00 PM
Saturday, Feb. 27		
Detroit	Boston	12:00 PM
Edmonton	Dallas	3:00 PM
Minnesota	St. Louis	4:00 PM
Toronto	Buffalo	7:00 PM
San Jose	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Carolina	7:00 PM
NY Islanders	Columbus	7:00 PM
Florida	Colorado	7:00 PM
Montreal	Anaheim	7:00 PM
Winnipeg	Seattle	7:00 PM
Los Angeles	Nashville	8:00 PM
Calgary	Vancouver	10:00 PM
Sunday, Feb. 28		
NY Rangers	Pittsburgh	1:00 PM
New Jersey	Minnesota	3:30 PM
Colorado	Chicago	6:30 PM
Utah	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Dallas	St. Louis	9:00 PM
MARCH		
Monday, March 1		
Detroit	Toronto	7:00 PM
Washington	NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Carolina	Columbus	7:00 PM
Seattle	Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Edmonton	Chicago	8:30 PM
Anaheim	Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Montreal	San Jose	10:00 PM
Tuesday, March 2		
Pittsburgh	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Utah	Florida	7:00 PM
Ottawa	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Vegas	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Colorado	Nashville	8:00 PM
Wednesday, March 3		
Seattle	Toronto	6:30 PM
Boston	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Carolina	Washington	7:00 PM
Minnesota	Dallas	8:00 PM
Edmonton	Calgary	8:30 PM
Chicago	Vancouver	10:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Columbus	San Jose	10:00 PM
Thursday, March 4		
St. Louis	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Seattle	Montreal	7:00 PM
Boston	Ottawa	7:00 PM
New Jersey	Detroit	7:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Florida	7:00 PM
Vegas	NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Utah	Nashville	9:30 PM
Friday, March 5		
Vegas	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Dallas	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Toronto	Carolina	7:00 PM
Washington	Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Chicago	Calgary	8:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Columbus	Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Colorado	San Jose	10:00 PM
Saturday, March 6		
Pittsburgh	Boston	12:00 PM
NY Rangers	Buffalo	3:00 PM
Seattle	Ottawa	3:30 PM
Vancouver	Montreal	7:00 PM
Dallas	Detroit	7:00 PM
Toronto	Florida	7:00 PM
Minnesota	Nashville	8:00 PM
Chicago	Edmonton	10:00 PM
Tampa Bay	San Jose	10:00 PM
Sunday, March 7		
Pittsburgh	NY Islanders	1:00 PM
St. Louis	Philadelphia	1:00 PM
Utah	Carolina	1:00 PM
Calgary	Winnipeg	3:00 PM
Colorado	Los Angeles	3:30 PM
Buffalo	Ottawa	5:00 PM
Vegas	NY Rangers	6:00 PM
Columbus	Anaheim	8:00 PM
Washington	Minnesota	8:30 PM
Monday, March 8		
Seattle	Boston	7:00 PM
Dallas	Toronto	7:30 PM
Tampa Bay	Chicago	8:00 PM
Tuesday, March 9		
Vancouver	Buffalo	7:00 PM
New Jersey	Florida	7:00 PM
Montreal	NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Ottawa	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Calgary	Washington	7:00 PM
Nashville	St. Louis	8:00 PM
Carolina	Minnesota	8:00 PM
Detroit	Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Los Angeles	Edmonton	8:00 PM
Philadelphia	Colorado	9:00 PM
NY Rangers	Utah	9:00 PM
San Jose	Vegas	10:00 PM
Wednesday, March 10		
Boston	Montreal	7:30 PM
Washington	Chicago	9:30 PM
Anaheim	Dallas	9:30 PM
Thursday, March 11		
Minnesota	Ottawa	7:00 PM
New Jersey	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Boston	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Vancouver	Columbus	7:00 PM
San Jose	St. Louis	8:00 PM
Toronto	Winnipeg	8:00 PM

All times Eastern (ET)

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Nashville	Edmonton	8:00 PM
NY Rangers	Colorado	9:30 PM
Los Angeles	Seattle	9:40 PM
Philadelphia	Vegas	10:00 PM
Friday, March 12		
Buffalo	Detroit	7:00 PM
NY Islanders	Florida	7:00 PM
Calgary	Carolina	7:00 PM
Saturday, March 13		
Washington	Pittsburgh	3:00 PM
Nashville	Winnipeg	3:30 PM
Chicago	Colorado	6:00 PM
Anaheim	St. Louis	6:30 PM
Calgary	Boston	7:00 PM
Vancouver	Toronto	7:00 PM
Montreal	Ottawa	7:00 PM
NY Islanders	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
New Jersey	Carolina	7:00 PM
San Jose	Columbus	7:00 PM
Philadelphia	Utah	5:00 PM
Dallas	Los Angeles	9:00 PM
NY Rangers	Vegas	10:00 PM
Edmonton	Seattle	10:00 PM
Sunday, March 14		
Detroit	Pittsburgh	2:00 PM
Anaheim	Chicago	4:30 PM
Vancouver	Ottawa	5:00 PM
Buffalo	Minnesota	7:00 PM
Monday, March 15		
Tampa Bay	Washington	1:00 PM
NY Islanders	Boston	7:00 PM
San Jose	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Florida	Toronto	7:30 PM
Dallas	Utah	9:00 PM
Edmonton	Colorado	9:30 PM
Nashville	Calgary	9:30 PM
St. Louis	Seattle	9:40 PM
Winnipeg	Vegas	10:00 PM
Tuesday, March 16		
Florida	Montreal	7:00 PM
Ottawa	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Detroit	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Columbus	7:00 PM
San Jose	Chicago	8:00 PM
Carolina	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Winnipeg	Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Wednesday, March 17		
NY Islanders	Washington	7:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Toronto	7:30 PM
Minnesota	Colorado	9:00 PM
Dallas	Calgary	9:30 PM
Nashville	Vancouver	10:00 PM
Seattle	Vegas	10:00 PM
Thursday, March 18		
Washington	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Montreal	7:00 PM
Florida	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Columbus	Detroit	7:00 PM
Pittsburgh	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Toronto	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Boston	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
San Jose	Winnipeg	8:00 PM
St. Louis	Edmonton	9:00 PM
Utah	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Carolina	Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Friday, March 19		
Calgary	Minnesota	8:00 PM
Chicago	Utah	10:00 PM
Colorado	Seattle	10:00 PM
Saturday, March 20		
Florida	Buffalo	1:00 PM
Montreal	Detroit	1:00 PM
Philadelphia	NY Islanders	3:00 PM
Dallas	Edmonton	3:30 PM
Boston	Nashville	5:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Toronto	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Columbus	Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Pittsburgh	NY Rangers	8:00 PM
St. Louis	Vancouver	10:00 PM
Vegas	Anaheim	10:30 PM
Carolina	San Jose	10:30 PM
Sunday, March 21		
Utah	Minnesota	2:00 PM
Buffalo	NY Islanders	3:00 PM
Chicago	Colorado	5:00 PM
Washington	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
St. Louis	Calgary	8:00 PM
Los Angeles	Seattle	8:00 PM
Edmonton	Vancouver	9:00 PM
Monday, March 22		
Columbus	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Toronto	Montreal	7:30 PM
San Jose	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Tuesday, March 23		
Buffalo	Boston	7:00 PM
Florida	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Philadelphia	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Detroit	Washington	7:00 PM
NY Rangers	Nashville	8:00 PM
Carolina	Dallas	8:00 PM
Chicago	Minnesota	8:00 PM
St. Louis	Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Utah	Colorado	9:00 PM
Edmonton	Calgary	9:00 PM
Vegas	Seattle	9:40 PM
Los Angeles	Vancouver	10:00 PM
Wednesday, March 24		
Ottawa	Montreal	7:30 PM
Washington	Detroit	7:30 PM
Anaheim	San Jose	10:00 PM
Thursday, March 25		
Ottawa	Boston	7:00 PM
Toronto	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Philadelphia	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
NY Rangers	Florida	7:00 PM
New Jersey	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Dallas	Carolina	7:00 PM
Chicago	Columbus	7:00 PM
NY Islanders	St. Louis	8:00 PM
Colorado	Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Edmonton	Minnesota	9:00 PM
Los Angeles	Calgary	9:00 PM
Anaheim	Seattle	9:40 PM
Vegas	Vancouver	10:00 PM
Friday, March 26		
Boston	Washington	7:00 PM
Nashville	Chicago	8:00 PM
San Jose	Utah	9:00 PM
Saturday, March 27		
Los Angeles	Edmonton	3:30 PM
Seattle	Minnesota	4:00 PM
Anaheim	Vancouver	4:00 PM
Philadelphia	Florida	6:00 PM
Ottawa	Toronto	7:00 PM
New Jersey	Montreal	7:00 PM
NY Rangers	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Carolina	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
St. Louis	Columbus	7:00 PM
Winnipeg	Colorado	7:00 PM
Detroit	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Nashville	Dallas	8:00 PM
Vegas	Calgary	10:00 PM
Sunday, March 28		
Seattle	Chicago	3:00 PM
Washington	Toronto	6:00 PM
Detroit	Montreal	7:00 PM
Buffalo	St. Louis	9:00 PM
Monday, March 29		
Carolina	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Minnesota	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Vancouver	Los Angeles	9:30 PM
Colorado	San Jose	10:00 PM
Tuesday, March 30		
Montreal	Boston	7:00 PM
Ottawa	Detroit	7:00 PM
Toronto	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Columbus	Florida	7:00 PM
Carolina	NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Chicago	Washington	7:00 PM
Buffalo	Nashville	8:00 PM
Calgary	Dallas	8:00 PM
Utah	Seattle	9:40 PM
Colorado	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Wednesday, March 31		
Minnesota	New Jersey	7:30 PM
San Jose	Edmonton	8:30 PM
Winnipeg	Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Vancouver	Vegas	10:30 PM
APRIL		
Thursday, April 1		
NY Rangers	Montreal	7:00 PM
Columbus	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Toronto	Florida	7:00 PM
Washington	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
NY Islanders	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Boston	Buffalo	7:30 PM
Calgary	St. Louis	8:00 PM
Chicago	Nashville	8:00 PM
Anaheim	Utah	9:00 PM
Friday, April 2		
Carolina	Detroit	7:00 PM
Ottawa	NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Dallas	Minnesota	8:00 PM
Los Angeles	Colorado	9:00 PM
Edmonton	Vegas	10:00 PM
Saturday, April 3		
Florida	NY Rangers	12:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Boston	3:00 PM
Calgary	Nashville	3:30 PM
Columbus	Washington	5:00 PM
New Jersey	Carolina	5:00 PM
Chicago	Dallas	6:00 PM
Buffalo	Toronto	7:00 PM
Winnipeg	Seattle	7:00 PM
Philadelphia	Pittsburgh	8:00 PM
Vegas	Utah	10:00 PM
San Jose	Vancouver	10:00 PM
Edmonton	Anaheim	10:00 PM
St. Louis	Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Sunday, April 4		
Colorado	Minnesota	2:00 PM
Florida	New Jersey	4:30 PM
Detroit	Ottawa	5:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Washington	7:00 PM
Montreal	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
St. Louis	San Jose	9:30 PM
Monday, April 5		
Philadelphia	Carolina	2:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Boston	Toronto	7:00 PM
Seattle	Dallas	8:00 PM
Winnipeg	Utah	9:30 PM
Calgary	Edmonton	9:30 PM
Tuesday, April 6		
Montreal	Florida	7:00 PM
Tampa Bay	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Washington	Columbus	7:00 PM
Detroit	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Pittsburgh	NY Rangers	7:30 PM
Seattle	Nashville	8:00 PM
Chicago	Minnesota	8:00 PM
Colorado	Vancouver	10:00 PM
St. Louis	Vegas	10:00 PM
Los Angeles	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Wednesday, April 7		
Boston	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Ottawa	Carolina	7:00 PM
Edmonton	Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Dallas	Utah	9:30 PM
Thursday, April 8		
Washington	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Montreal	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
NY Islanders	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Philadelphia	Columbus	7:00 PM
Nashville	Chicago	8:00 PM
Seattle	St. Louis	8:00 PM
Colorado	Calgary	9:00 PM
Minnesota	San Jose	9:30 PM
Vegas	Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Friday, April 9		
Pittsburgh	Detroit	7:00 PM
Boston	Florida	7:00 PM
Vancouver	Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Utah	Dallas	8:00 PM
Saturday, April 10		
Washington	Philadelphia	12:00 PM
Minnesota	Colorado	3:00 PM
Anaheim	San Jose	4:00 PM
Columbus	NY Islanders	5:00 PM
Detroit	Buffalo	6:00 PM
Carolina	Florida	6:00 PM
Pittsburgh	New Jersey	6:00 PM
Seattle	Chicago	6:00 PM
Dallas	Nashville	6:00 PM
Montreal	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Toronto	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Utah	St. Louis	7:00 PM
Boston	Tampa Bay	8:00 PM
Vancouver	Calgary	10:00 PM
Winnipeg	Edmonton	10:00 PM
Los Angeles	Vegas	10:30 PM

*All times Eastern (ET)



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UNRESTRICTED

Free Agents

Even with teams having more cap space, several UFAs had yet to find a new home by early August. These are the most prominent

GOALIES	2025-26	GP	W	L	OT	GAA	SP
Connor Ingram	Edmonton	32	16	10	3	2.60	.899
Petr Mrazek	Anaheim	10	3	5	0	4.07	.858
Matt Murray	Seattle	5	0	2	1	2.21	.922
James Reimer	Ottawa	14	7	4	2	2.42	.886
Cam Talbot	Detroit	34	12	9	6	3.19	.883
DEFENSEMEN	**2025-26**	**GP**	**G**	**A**		**PTS**	**PIM**
Nick Blankenburg	Nashville/Colorado	61	8	16		24	10
Adam Boqvist	NY Islanders	28	0	4		4	8
Mathew Dumba	Pittsburgh	11	1	2		3	11
Matt Grzelcyk	Chicago	69	0	12		12	32
Travis Hamonic	Detroit	26	0	2		2	29
Ben Hutton	Vegas	55	6	9		15	19
Pierre-Olivier Joseph	Vancouver	31	1	5		6	8
John Klingberg	San Jose	56	10	17		27	24
Nick Leddy	San Jose	32	1	6		7	6
Jeff Petry	Minnesota/Florida	67	0	9		9	24
Mike Reilly	Carolina	42	1	8		9	26
Carson Soucy	NY Rangers/NY Islanders	76	5	7		12	38
Logan Stanley	Winnipeg/Buffalo	76	9	17		26	128
CENTERS	**2025-26**	**GP**	**G**	**A**		**PTS**	**PIM**
Robby Fabbri	St. Louis/Minnesota	21	2	3		5	16
Luke Glendening	New Jersey/Philadelphia	70	2	7		9	8
Adam Henrique	Edmonton	65	3	12		15	18
Calle Jarnkrok	Toronto	56	6	2		8	8
Tyson Jost	Nashville	69	8	8		16	30
Luke Kunin	Florida	62	4	6		10	47
Philipp Kurashev	San Jose	43	7	13		20	16
Curtis Lazar	Edmonton	45	4	2		6	10
Gustav Nyquist	Winnipeg	51	1	11		12	10
LEFT WINGERS	**2025-26**	**GP**	**G**	**A**		**PTS**	**PIM**
Michael Bunting	Nashville/Dallas	74	14	19		33	20
Jonathan Drouin	NY Islanders/St. Louis	64	4	20		24	19
Evander Kane	Vancouver	71	13	18		31	92
Patrik Laine	Montreal	5	0	1		1	2
Tanner Pearson	Winnipeg/Buffalo	56	7	8		15	27
David Perron	Ottawa/Detriot	65	13	15		28	40
Jeff Skinner	San Jose	32	6	7		13	14
James van Riemsdyk	Detroit	72	15	16		31	14
RIGHT WINGERS	**2025-26**	**GP**	**G**	**A**		**PTS**	**PIM**
Kevin Hayes	Pittsburgh	28	4	4		8	8
Reilly Smith	Vegas	69	16	10		26	4
Vladimir Tarasenko	Minnesota	75	23	24		47	10
Eeli Tolvanen	Seattle	78	12	24		36	30

LAST WORD

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LEO CARLSSON

NHL

A New Precedent Has Been Set

Not only did the Leo Carlsson offer sheet teach NHL GMs a lesson, but it also set in motion a new ripple effect that may make the NHL's young talent ripe for the taking

THE NHL CHANGED ON July 3, as the Philadelphia Flyers signed Anaheim center Leo Carlsson to a massive offer sheet. The Ducks matched the contract six days later, but the ripple effects will continue to be felt around the league for the next couple of years – at least.

Carlsson, an excellent 21-year-old center, became the highest-paid player in the NHL, with a cap hit of $18 million for the next five seasons (since surpassed by San Jose's Macklin Celebrini). "We have viewed Leo as a franchise player since the moment we met him prior to the 2023 draft," said Anaheim GM Pat Verbeek. "He's a character person on and off the ice. Leo is viewed as a top player in this league, and it was always our intention to match any offer sheet."

OK, yeah, but I'm not sure Verbeek expected the Flyers to go *so hard* with their offer sheet. Because $18 million is a wild number for a player whose NHL career-high so far is 67 points. Do I believe Carlsson could bump that up to 85 or 90 points in 2026-27? Yes, I'd say he certainly has that potential. And he is more than just an offensive weapon. Carlsson is already a sturdy defensive presence down the middle, and he'll perhaps be in the mix for a Selke Trophy one day.

But here's where things get interesting for the rest of the GMs in the NHL. There are players with higher ceilings than Carlsson who have contracts coming up for renewal down the road. Celebrini has established himself as one of the best players in the world at 20, and the Carlsson contract was surely used as a comparable when Celebrini signed for an AAV of $18.8 million. As a sophomore, Celebrini finished fourth in NHL scoring with 115 points and was fourth in Hart voting. He's also a center, so a comparison with Carlsson is apples-to-apples.

Another player to consider down the road is Matthew Schaefer. The New York Islanders defenseman and Calder Trophy winner demonstrated an incredible amount of poise and skill in his first NHL campaign, making himself indispensable on Long Island. GM Mathieu Darche has some time before he needs to worry about an extension – Schaefer's entry-level deal runs through 2027-28 – but it will be top of mind when the time comes. After all, an argument can be made that Schaefer should get more than Carlsson.

Now, the cap hit isn't everything, of course. Superstars such as Connor McDavid and Auston Matthews didn't max it out on their most recent contracts, taking less than market value and shorter terms to make sure their respective teams were serious about Stanley Cup runs. Their forebearer phenom, Sidney Crosby, has always given the Pittsburgh Penguins a big discount on his salary. The result? Three Cup rings.

But let's not kid ourselves. With the salary cap continuing to rise in the coming years, somebody is going to be making $20 million a season pretty soon. And that timeline likely got accelerated by Carlsson's contract.

Philosophically, the Carlsson offer sheet also shattered the false sense of security Verbeek had when it came to RFAs. The Anaheim GM has historically been quite vocal about playing hardball with RFAs, and this time, that strategy bit him in the hockey pants. Had Verbeek re-signed Carlsson earlier, the cap hit would have been closer to $14 million and might have been for seven or eight seasons. The knock-on effect is that Verbeek still had other RFAs to deal with, and it's surely no coincidence Ducks defenseman Pavel Mintyukov got a very favorable new contract days after the Carlsson offer sheet. In fact, I'll just say it: Mintyukov got overpaid. And then there's Gauthier, who was unsigned as of early August and promised to be an interesting negotiation to say the least. Suddenly, Anaheim went from an exciting young team with a ton of cap space to one with very little wiggle room and a locked-in roster.

Thanks to Carlsson, we are in a new era now, and Verbeek isn't the only NHL GM who should have learned a lesson here. First off, offer sheets are no longer verboten, and you don't need to worry about a barn fight if you make one. Secondly, players and their agents are going to go for that bag if you don't play nice at the negotiating table. Yes, teams have more money to spend under the cap, but you still have to figure out how to make it your ally and not your enemy. H

JOHN E. SOKOLOWSKI-IMAGN IMAGES

The Hockey News

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